

express

A PUBLICATION OF **The Washington Post** | LIVE ALL DAY AT WWW.READEXPRESS.COM | DECEMBER 27, 2006 | >>**FREE**<<

Wednesday



A firefighter tries to stop the blaze in Nigeria.

Pipeline Blast: At least 260 killed in Nigeria explosion | **8**

Energy Fund: Democrats eye Big Oil money for renewables | **3**

Second to None: The Caps' Ovechkin is even better in year No. 2 | **17**

ENTERTAINMENT

Dig 'Dirt': Courtney Cox in stories ripped from the tabloids. Also, D.C. band Pessimist Parade's rosy future.

>>**18-20**

Weather >> Sunny, Breezy



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FULL FORECAST ON PAGE 30

Saddam's Execution Upheld

Iraqi court rules ex-ruler must be hanged within 30 days

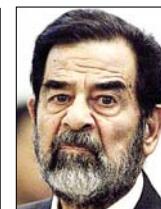
BAGHDAD, IRAQ | Iraq's highest court rejected Saddam Hussein's appeal Tuesday and said the former dictator must be hanged within 30 days for his role in the 1982 slayings of 148 Shiite Muslims from a town where assassins tried to kill him. "From tomorrow, any day could be the day" Saddam is sent to the gallows, chief judge Aref Shahin said.

The ruling could stoke Iraq's sectarian rage, with the Shiite majority demanding Saddam's death and most in the formerly dominant Sunni Arab community calling

the trial tainted.

In upholding the Saddam sentence imposed Nov. 5, the Supreme Court of Appeals also affirmed death sentences for two of his co-defendants, including his half brother. And it said life imprisonment for a third was too lenient and demanded he be given the death penalty, too.

The White House called the ruling a milestone in Iraq's efforts "to replace the



Saddam

rule of a tyrant with the rule of law."

"Saddam Hussein has received due process and legal rights that he denied the Iraqi people for so long. So this is an important day for the Iraqi people," said deputy White House press

secretary Scott Stanzel, who was aboard Air Force One flying from Washington to Waco, Texas. CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA (AP)

♦ **Continued unrest:** A wave of violence kills 54 Iraqis as the U.S. death toll reaches 90 for the month | **Page 8**

A Soulful Outpouring for James Brown



KISS GOODBYE: Derrick Monk, a producer for James Brown, kisses a statue of the "Godfather of Soul" Tuesday in Augusta, Ga. Fans paid tribute to the late singer, who died Monday, in his hometown by draping an American flag and scarf on the statue. ♦ **In memory:** Stars share their love for Brown | **Page 18**

SANTA | 'Go to Bed, Kid; He'll Get There' Updates on Santa's Christmas preparations and sleigh ride were just a phone call away Sunday. A Mountain View, Calif., firm specializing in voice recognition and mobile search technology set up the free



service; callers who dialed the 800 number and said "Santa" heard tracking information on his journey across the United States. The Tellme Networks system customized the report based on the call's area code. (AP) **EyeOpeners** | **Page 2**

eyeOpeners

OPPOSITE EFFECTS

Hey Guys, the Police Endorsed My Beer!

Eager to combat drunken driving during the holidays, police are distributing pint glasses embossed with the logo of the Bennington, Va., police department to bars and restaurants. About 160 of the glasses, donated to the department by a glassmaking company, are being given away in hopes that those using them will think twice about getting behind the wheel if they've had too many. "It should give awareness to people and make them pay attention a little more," said T.J. Carmody, owner of a restaurant that got three cases of the glasses last week. "We're not telling people they can't have a good time." (AP)



SPECIALTIES

Learning From Experience

A former Tyler, Texas, drug agent described by one official as a top narcotics officer in the country is selling a how-to video on concealing drugs and fooling police. Barry Cooper has launched a Web site where he will sell his video, "Never Get Busted Again." A promotional video says Cooper will show viewers how to "conceal their stash," "avoid narcotics profiling" and "fool canines every time." Cooper, who said he favors the legalization of marijuana, made the video in part because he believes the nation's fight against drugs is a waste of resources. Busting marijuana users fills up prisons with non-violent offenders, he said. (AP)



CHUNG SUNG-JUNG/GETTY IMAGES

TRIBUTES

Black Bear Hills

Theodore Roosevelt might have been honored to know that the toy named after him has become something of an institution. But that doesn't necessarily mean he'd be ecstatic to know a memorial to him has been replicated with little stuffed bear faces, as it was in this display Thursday at a "Teddy and Friends Around the World in a Day" exhibition. Along with the Seoul event — touted as the world's largest teddy bear exhibit — was a charity auction to raise money for troubled teenagers and children.



JOEL RICHARDSON/TWP
The speed camera will be replaced with a sign reading, "Move it, people!"

ENFORCEMENT

Making People Obey The Law Is Dangerous

A highway speed camera in Wales will be removed because, officials said, it increases the risk of accidents and disrupts the flow of traffic, the Mirror reported. Authorities said motorists brake sharply upon seeing the camera, creating a hazard to drivers behind them. Also, the camera has been blamed for congestion during rush hour as drivers drastically slow their speed to 50 mph on the highway. (EXPRESS)



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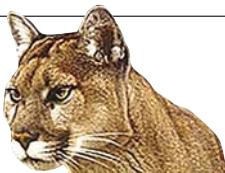
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SEX KITTENS: Researchers are trying to determine whether a sexually transmitted disease might have caused the blindness found in at least two mountain lions in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Wildlife biologists say tests on two lions are consistent with chlamydia.

Nation

In Brief

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

Police Arrest Man After 3 Bodies Found at Apartment

A man suspected of killing his girlfriend and her two children, and then spending the next four days in their Fort Smith apartment with their bodies was arrested Tuesday, police said. Officers went to the apartment after receiving a call shortly after midnight from James Aaron Miller's father in Colorado saying his son had sent him a text message that sounded suicidal, Fort Smith police Sgt. Jarrard Copeland said. (AP)

HOUSTON

Oil Pipeline Rupture Spills 21,000 Gallons Into Gulf

Workers Tuesday were trying to contain an oil spill that dumped 21,000 gallons into the Gulf of Mexico after a pipeline ruptured. The U.S. Coast Guard said the spill, about 30 miles southeast of Galveston, came from a rupture in a medium crude oil pipeline owned by Houston-based Plains All American Pipeline. The company detected a pressure loss in the High Island Pipeline System and shut the line down early Sunday, Coast Guard officials said. (AP)

Polar Bears in Peril

→ The White House is proposing to list the polar bear as threatened, putting the government on record as saying global warming could drive the animals to extinction. | **Today, A1**

IN The Washington Post

Democrats to Target Oil Tax Breaks

House leaders plan to redistribute funds to conservation efforts

WASHINGTON | House Democrats in the first weeks of the new Congress plan to establish a dedicated fund to promote renewable energy and conservation, using money from oil companies.

That's only one legislative hit the oil industry is expected to take next year as a Congress run by Democrats is likely to show little sympathy to the cash-rich, high-profile business.

Whether the issue is rolling

back tax breaks — some approved by Congress only 18 months ago — pushing for more use of ethanol and other biofuels instead of gasoline, or investigations into shortfalls in royalty payments to the government, oil industry lobbyists will spend most of their time playing defense.

Details of a renewable fuels fund have yet to be worked out. Nonetheless, it's one of the initiatives the House will take up during its first 100 hours in session in January, according to aides to Speaker-elect Nancy Pelosi. At least some of the money — revenue gained by rolling back some tax breaks — will go

to a program to support research into making ethanol from sources other than corn.

"What we'll do is roll back the subsidies to Big Oil and use the resources to invest in a reserve for research in alternative energy," Pelosi, a California Democrat, recently told reporters.

But the oil issue likely to be first out of the legislative block in January concerns the ability of the federal government to recover royalties many lawmakers believe have been unfairly avoided by oil and gas companies drilling in deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

The Interior Department has been trying to get more than 50 companies to rework 1998-99 drilling leases that allow the companies to avoid paying billions of dollars in royalties because of a government mistake in writing the leases.

The industry intransigence has upset many in Congress, both Republicans and Democrats, who say they want to find a way to force the companies back to negotiations on the flawed leases. One approach is legislation barring companies from bidding on future leases unless they agree to renegotiate the flawed ones. H. JOSEPH HEBERT (AP)

NEW YORK | PARTIAL BUILDING COLLAPSE KILLS 1



SETH WENIG/AP

GRIM DUTY: Emergency personnel remove a body from a building in the Harlem neighborhood of New York on Tuesday. Part of the building under construction collapsed, killing one person and injuring at least two others.

Senate Investigation Nixes 9/11 Allegations

Lawmakers end probe of conspiracy theory about plane hijackers

WASHINGTON | A lengthy Senate investigation has debunked charges by a Republican congressman that military analysts identified Mohamed Atta and other Sept. 11 hijackers before the attacks, according to a committee aide familiar with the report.

In a letter to members of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Sens. Pat Roberts and John D. Rockefeller dismissed suggestions by Rep. Curt

Weldon, R-Pa., that defense analysts ignored analysis that could have prevented the attacks. Roberts, R-Kan., is outgoing chairman and Rockefeller, of West Virginia, is the senior Democrat who will assume the chairmanship next month.

They concluded "there was no evidence Mohamed Atta or any hijackers were identified prior to 9/11," said the committee aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

An internal Pentagon assessment already had dismissed Weldon's charges as unfounded. But the letter is the first rejection from Capitol Hill. ANNE FLAHERTY (AP)

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Nation



HIP TO BE SCARED: Taking such popular heartburn drugs as Nexium, Prevacid or Prilosec for a year can raise the risk of a broken hip markedly in people over 50, a large study in Britain found.

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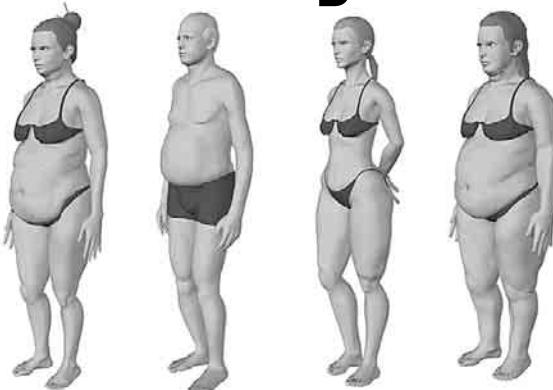
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Fla. Picks Up After Storms

Cleanup efforts begin
after 4 tornadoes hit
coast, damaging homes

DAYTONA BEACH, FLA. | Four Christmas Day tornadoes damaged hundreds of Florida homes, with one flipping airplanes at a flight school and tearing the roofs off three apartment buildings, officials confirmed Tuesday.

"It's all gone," said Estelle Hunter, 25, who left her home five minutes before the wind uprooted a tree and slammed it through the roof.

The tornado that hit Daytona Beach on Monday was an F-2, with wind speeds between 113 mph and 157 mph. Its wind tore the roofs off three apartment buildings, extensively damaging many of the 240 units.

At Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, it hurled an airplane into a wall, sparking a fire, and snapped off wings or flipped about 50 others.

More than 200 homes in a num-



Residents survey the damage at Fernwood Estates Mobile Home Park north of DeLand, Fla., on Tuesday, a day after tornadoes damaged hundreds of homes.

ber of mobile home parks were damaged west of Daytona Beach around DeLand, where another F-2 tornado was confirmed, the Volusia County Property Appraiser's Office said.

An F-2 tornado also damaged about 80 homes in Pasco County north of Tampa, around the Tampa

Bay Golf and Country Club.

Elaine Mandela was among those forced from their home in Pasco County. She spent Monday night with friends, but said she was unsure what she would do now.

"I have no idea," she said. "I'm not sure it has hit me yet." (AP)

Bush In Texas to Mull Course of Iraq War

President to host a
security meeting this
week on war planning

CRAWFORD, TEXAS | President Bush went to his ranch Tuesday to rethink U.S. involvement in Iraq as his spokesman hailed a Baghdad court's decision upholding the death sentence for former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

Saddam, who was deposed by the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, is to be hanged within 30 days.

Bush, saddled with low approval ratings for his handling of Iraq, will host a National Security Council meeting on Thursday at the ranch, but is not expected to make any final decision on what he says will be a new way forward in Iraq.

Vice President Dick Cheney, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice,

Defense Secretary Robert Gates and National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley will attend the meeting.

Stanzel said there could be other National Security Council meetings before the president makes up his mind and delivers a speech to announce his decisions. The speech is expected before the State of the Union address on Jan. 23.

Bush is under mounting pressure to change U.S. involvement in Iraq where violence continued to escalate this month.

Stanzel said Bush continues to question advisers and think through the consequences of various U.S. actions. "Our forces, coalition forces in Iraq are continuing to take the fight to the enemy, and the president will announce a new way forward when he's comfortable" with his decision, he said.

DEB RIECHMANN (AP)

Rapist Preys on Male Victims in Houston Suburb

BAYTOWN, TEXAS | A rapist who has struck at least five times since April in and around Baytown has not only spread fear in this working-class community but also piqued the interest of those who study the criminal mind.

The reason: He preys on other men.

The U.S. Justice Department says one in 33 men in the United States has been a victim of a rape or attempted rape, compared with one in six women. Experts say men are far less likely to report a rape to authorities, because they fear being perceived as weak or see the attack as an assault on their masculinity.

Three of the attacks have occurred in the city, the other two on the outskirts of town. The most recent attack was Nov. 30. JOHN PORRETTA (AP)

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World



SHOP TALK: Consumer electronics retailer Best Buy is opening its first outlet in China, teaming up with a local partner to tackle the hyper-competitive market for gadgets and appliances. The store will be in Shanghai's busy Xujiahui shopping district.

Troops Push Toward Somali Capital

Ethiopian, government forces advance in fight against Islamic militia

MOGADISHU, SOMALIA | Somali government soldiers, joined by troops from neighboring Ethiopia, advanced toward Somalia's capital Tuesday as Islamic fighters dug in and promised a "new phase" in the war — a chilling pronouncement from a movement that has threatened suicide attacks.

Somalia called on the Council of Islamic Courts militias, bloodied by a week of artillery and mortar attacks, to surrender and promised amnesty if they lay down their weapons, government spokesman Abdirahman Dinari said.

A U.N. official, meanwhile, said Tuesday that Ethiopian-backed gov-



TAKING CONTROL: Government soldiers patrol in the streets of Burhakaba, Somalia, on Tuesday. Ethiopian troops have joined in the fight against an Islamic militia.

ernment troops were advancing on Mogadishu, the capital, from two directions and facing stiff resistance.

Francois Lonseny Fall, the top U.N. envoy to Somalia, also said 35,000 Somalis had crossed into neighboring Kenya to escape the fighting, which forced the U.N. to suspend aid delivery to two million Somalis.

As many as 1,000 people may have been killed and 3,000 wounded in the fighting, many of them foreign radicals, Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi said.

Meles said about 3,000 to 4,000 Ethiopian forces, which entered Somalia on Saturday, may soon wrap up their offensive against the Islamic militias that until recent days controlled most of southern part of the country.

Somalia's Troubled Turn

→ Fears remain high that Ethiopia's military campaign could have disastrous consequences, not only for Somalia but across the Horn of Africa. | **Today, A1**

IN **The Washington Post**

Sheik Sharif Sheik Ahmed, a top leader of the Islamic group, accused Ethiopian troops of massacring 50 civilians in the central town of Cadado. Ethiopian officials were not immediately available to respond.

Ahmed said his fighters are in tactical retreat in the face of superior Ethiopian firepower. But the military struggle has just begun, he added.

"The war is entering a new phase," Ahmed said from Mogadishu, the capital. "We will fight Ethiopia for a long, long time and we expect the war to go everywhere."

MOHAMED OLAD HASSAN (AP)



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World



ON THE HUNT: Thousands of Britons turned out Tuesday for annual Boxing Day fox hunts, organizers said, two years after Parliament passed a law restricting the use of dogs in such hunts. More than 300,000 people were thought to have taken part in more than 300 hunts across Britain.

In Brief



Some say Nepalese teen Ram Bahadur Bomjon is the reincarnation of Buddha.

KATMANDU, NEPAL

'Buddha Boy' Reappears After Vanishing for Months

A missing teenage boy who many believe is the reincarnation of Buddha has reappeared in the jungles of Nepal months after he went missing, an official said Tuesday. Ram Bahadur Banjan, 15, was last seen on March 11 in a forest where he had meditated for 10 months, allegedly without food and water. Thousands of Hindus and Buddhists flocked to see him every day. But Buddhist priests who visited the boy said he was not the incarnation of Buddha, although they believed he had been meditating for months. (AP)

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

Land Mines, Fence Planned To Curb Flow of Militants

Pakistan said Tuesday it will plant land mines and build a fence on parts of its long, rugged frontier with Afghanistan to meet criticism it does too little to stop Taliban and al-Qaeda guerrillas from crossing the border. Afghanistan quickly objected to the idea of a fence along the 1,510-mile border, whose demarcation is disputed by the two nations. (AP)

MINSK, BELARUS

Fears Rise That Russia May Cut Off Natural Gas Supply

Residents of Belarus' capital stocked up on warm clothes and electric heaters as fears rose Tuesday that Russia is about to cut off the natural gas on which the country depends. Russia says Belarus must pay more than twice as much for gas next year and turn over a half-share in its pipeline system if it wants to avoid a New Year's gas shut-off. (AP)

Car Bombs, Attacks in Iraq Kill 54

U.S. death toll reaches 90 for December as tough month nears end

BAGHDAD, IRAQ | A string of car bombs and other blasts killed at least 54 Iraqis on Tuesday, including 17 outside Baghdad's most venerated Sunni mosque, while U.S. troops battled Shiite militiamen in Baghdad.

Seven more American soldiers died, the U.S. military said, pushing the December death toll to 90

in one of the bloodiest months for the American troops in Iraq this year. Some 105 troops were killed in October.

In the most lethal incident Tuesday, three parked cars exploded one after another in western Baghdad, police and Iraqi media reported. The blasts killed 25 people and wounded 55, one physician said by telephone, as he watched the victims being carried into Yarmouk hospital. The doctor spoke on condition of anonymity because of security concerns.



An Iraqi man walks between vehicles at the scene of a car bombing in Baghdad.

Perhaps the most politically significant attack came in Azamiyah, a Sunni enclave of Iraq's capital, where a car bomb exploded near the Abu Hanifa mosque, according to Iraqi media. That blast killed 17 and wounded 35, said a physician at the nearby Nuaman Hospital, who also asked to remain anonymous.

The explosion tore through a busy square at the start of the evening rush hour. The mosque is Sunni Islam's holiest shrine in Baghdad, and a regular target of Shiite mortar teams. LAUREN FAYER (AP)

THAILAND | GLOWING TRIBUTE TO TSUNAMI VICTIMS

TWO YEARS ON: Balloon lanterns are released in Phang Nga province, Thailand, on Tuesday during a ceremony marking the second anniversary of the powerful Dec. 26, 2004, Indian Ocean tsunami that killed some 230,000 people. In a jarring reminder of the ongoing threat in the seismically charged region, an earthquake struck off southwestern Taiwan on Tuesday, prompting a brief alert that a tsunami might be headed toward the Philippines. No big waves materialized.

Scores Die In Pipeline Explosion

At least 260 Nigerians killed after tapped gas line bursts into flame

LAGOS, NIGERIA | A gasoline pipeline ruptured by thieves burst into flames Tuesday as scavengers collected the fuel in a poor neighborhood, killing at least 260 people in the latest oil-industry disaster to hit Africa's biggest petroleum producer.

Braving a towering pillar of flames and a cloud of acrid black smoke, thousands of residents of Lagos' Abule Egba neighborhood surged toward rescue workers carrying away charred bodies, hoping to catch a glimpse of missing family members.

"My brother, my brother," wept 19-year-old Suboke Adebayo as an unidentified charred male corpse was loaded into a waiting ambulance.

Residents said a gang of thieves had been illegally tapping the pipe for months, carting away gasoline in tankers for resale.

Pipeline tapping is a common practice in Nigeria, where a majority of the country's 130 million people live in poverty despite their country's role as Africa's leading crude producer. KATHARINE HOURED (AP)

Doctor: Castro Not Ill With Cancer

MADRID, SPAIN | A Spanish surgeon who treated Fidel Castro said the ailing Cuban leader does not have cancer, insisting Tuesday he was recovering slowly but progressively from a serious operation.

The comments by Dr. Jose Luis Garcia Sabrido, the chief surgeon at Madrid's Gregorio Maranon Hos-

pital, represented the first independent medical assessment of Castro's condition since the Cuban leader underwent emergency intestinal surgery in July. The Cuban government has kept Castro's condition a state secret, occasionally releasing photographs and videos of him to show he is convalescing.

Garcia Sabrido visited Havana last week to examine Castro and consult with his medical team.

"He hasn't got cancer," Garcia Sabrido said, adding that he believed Castro could be physically capable of running the country again. "While respecting confidentiality, I can tell you that President Castro is not suffering from any malignant sickness." (AP)

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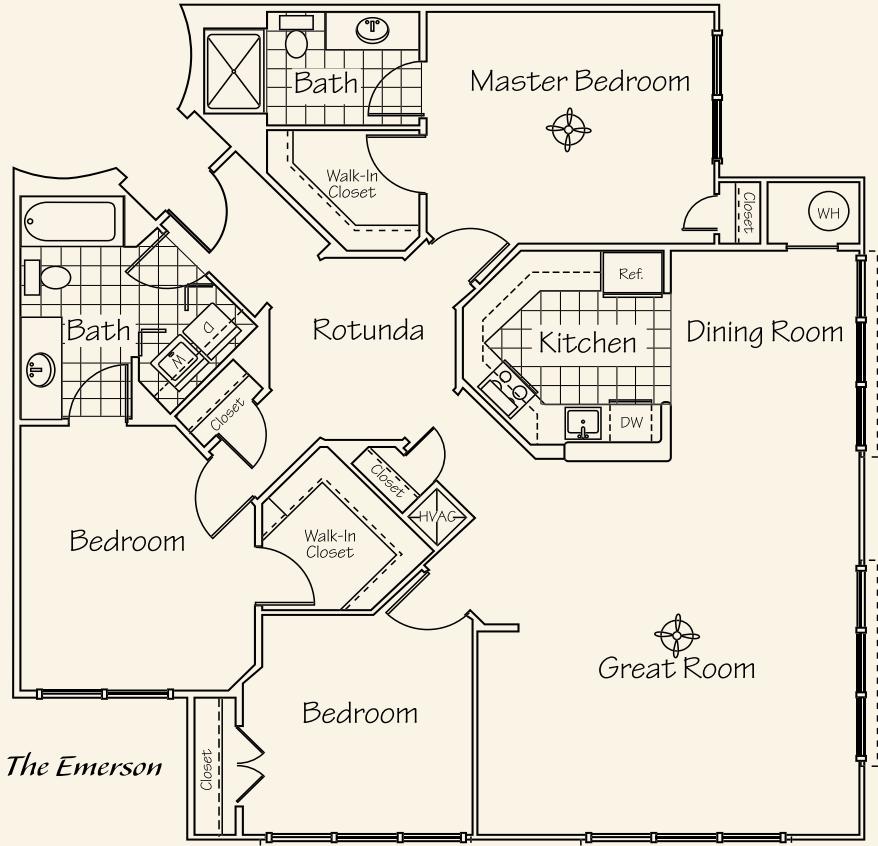
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OWN AT THE
SAVOY





CHART TOPPER: This year's Wonders of America set climbed to second place in the most popular stamps, but Elvis is still the King, the Postal Service said Tuesday. Some 124.1 million of the 1993 Elvis Presley stamps were saved by Americans, according to the post office.

Money

Renters Wait Out Home Sales Slump

Some breathe sigh of relief as housing market hits slowdown

The housing slump has been painful for millions of people who work in real estate or recently bought a house.

For Patrick Killelea, however, this year has been one long victory lap. Killelea, a 41-year-old software engineer, has long preached that it makes more economic sense to rent than buy homes. He recalls shouting "Wow!" when he heard about September's 9.7 percent drop in prices of new homes.

"I didn't want to gloat," he said. "But then again, maybe I did."

For years, Americans who refused to buy real estate at what they considered excessive prices were ribbed for failing to profit from one of the greatest booms in history.

Now, with the housing market in a slump, renters who sat out the

boom are finally getting some satisfaction.

Dean Baker, an economist, believes that the slump validates his decision to sell a two-bedroom condo in Washington's Adams Morgan neighborhood two years ago. Baker says he received \$450,000 for the unit, which he had bought for just \$160,000 in 1997. Since unloading the condo, he and his wife, Helene Jorgensen, also an economist, have been renting an apartment nearby for about \$2,300 a month.

Of course, as even many hardcore renters acknowledge, homeownership has some big advantages, including tax deductions, the possibility of gaining value over the long term and the security of knowing you won't be evicted by a capricious landlord.

While some economists argue that the housing slump is nearly over, Baker insists, "We're just at the beginning of it."

JAMES R. HAGERTY

(THE WALL STREET JOURNAL)

Retailers Pin Hopes On Post-Holiday Push

NEW YORK | America's retailers ushered in the post-Christmas shopping season on Tuesday by slashing prices even more on holiday items and stocking up on full-price merchandise.

With the 2006 pre-Christmas season falling short of sales expectations for many merchants, the retail industry hoped that shoppers, armed with gift cards, would spend freely in the weeks ahead on discounted items as well as fresh merchandise.

The big exceptions were luxury stores and online businesses, both of which did better than expected this holiday season. Amazon.com reported Tuesday that the season finished as its "best ever," with the busiest day being Dec. 11.

Meanwhile, deep discounting



Holiday season sales have fallen short of expectations for many merchants.

of flat-panel TVs and other gadgets led to a buying surge, as well as a profit blow to Best Buy Co. and Circuit City Stores Inc.

A big negative factor this season was mild temperatures throughout most of the U.S., which slowed sales of winter items like coats and snow boots.

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO (AP)

Fuel Costs Drop Amid Mild Weather

WASHINGTON | Oil and natural gas prices fell hard Tuesday amid mild winter weather that has depressed demand for home-heating fuels.

Trading volume was light and that exaggerated the moves lower,

analysts said.

Light sweet crude for February delivery declined \$1.31, or 2 percent, to settle at \$61.10 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

"The weather is taking a big hold of this market," said Societe Generale commodity strategist Mike Guido, who estimated that consumption of home-heating fuels in the Northeast was as much as 30 percent below normal over the past 45 days. (AP)

Market Action

New York Stock Exchange

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
Salton h	2.33	.18	+8.4
Applica h	7.88	.60	+8.2
GtChina	31.00	+2.25	+7.8
ChinaFd	34.20	+2.25	+7.0
PennT rsrlf	7.11	.44	+6.6

Losers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
Technitrl	22.79	-1.82	-7.4
GlobTap	2.63	-.15	-5.4
CanTelMed	16.21	-.84	-4.9
Amrep	121.80	-4.91	-3.9
Wellmn	2.89	-.11	-3.7

Rates

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK
Prime Rate	8.25	8.25
Fed Funds close	5.375	5.25
3-month disc	4.88	4.83
2-year	4.71	4.71
10-year	4.60	4.59
30-year	4.73	4.72

NASDAQ Stock Market

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
ZiCorp	2.56	.80	+45.5
TEL Off	9.34	+2.33	+33.2
CTI Inds	4.65	.70	+17.7
ReposTh	11.71	+1.66	+16.5
Iomai n	5.00	...	

Losers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
TelikInc	4.77	-11.49	-70.7
FreeSeas	2.62	-.42	-13.8
Arotech rs	3.05	-.40	-11.6
Caringtn	2.82	-.34	-10.8
PemcoAvi	7.56	-.84	-10.0

Currency (Dollars in foreign currency)

	TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY	YEAR AGO
British Pound	.5118	.5101	.5767
Canadian Dollar	1.1611	1.1570	1.1660
European Euro	.7635	.7607	.8427
Japanese Yen	119.16	118.76	116.22
Mexican Peso	10.8969	10.8752	10.6670
Taiwanese Dollar	32.64	32.62	33.17

DOW

NASDAQ

S&P 500

	+64.41	+12.33	+6.14
	+0.52	+0.51	+0.44
DOW	12407.63	2413.51	1416.90

Media Stocks

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	YEAR TO DATE PERCENT CHANGE
CBS B n	31.41	.22	+23.2
ClearChan	35.66	.13	+13.4
Comcast	42.89	.46	+65.5
Comc sp	42.45	.38	+65.2
DirecTV	24.59	.04	+74.2
Disney	34.53	.37	+44.1
EchoStar	37.92	.17	+39.5
McGrwH	68.13	-.10	+32.0
NewsCpA	21.40	-.13	+37.6
NewsCpB	22.26	-.14	+34.0
Omnicom	102.86	-.17	+20.8
Thomson	41.36	.28	+19.5
TimeWarn	22.22	.14	+27.4
ViacomB	40.35	.69	-1.9
WPP Gp	66.97	.57	+24.0

Healthy Adult Volunteers Needed

The National Institute of Mental Health is conducting a psychopharmacology study of mild stress and memory. Participants will be interviewed and will complete a series of tasks during which physiological functioning will be recorded. Volunteers must be between the ages of 18-50.

Financial compensation will be provided for participation.

Call: 1-800-411-1222
(TTY: 1-866-411-1010)



National Institute of Mental Health NIMH
National Institutes of Health, Department of Health & Human Services

Local

Va. Case Review Delayed

Crime lab director says DNA testing is years behind schedule

A year after Virginia's crime lab launched an unprecedented review of old cases that experts said could free dozens of wrongly convicted people, the project appears to be years from completion and some are questioning the credentials of the private company selected to do the DNA testing.

Former Gov. Mark R. Warner ordered a full review of the cases in December 2006 after an analysis of old evidence revealed that two men were not guilty of sexual assault. Warner pardoned the men, who became part of a wave of exonerations that reignited a national debate over post-conviction DNA testing.

At the time, state crime lab director Paul Ferrara predicted the retesting project would be completed within two years and could free dozens of innocent inmates. But now, just days from retirement, Ferrara has revised his prediction, saying changes at the lab have stalled progress. CANDACE RONDEAUX (THE WASHINGTON POST)

NEW DIRECTION: The Smithsonian has established a 10-member committee to assist with the search for the next director of the National Museum of the American Indian. W. Richard West, the current director, said in October he is stepping down.



WASHINGTON | KWANZAA CELEBRATION BEGINS



NIKKI KAINU/TWP

HERITAGE HOLIDAY: Tyease SetepenRa, left, Ayo Handy Kendi and Bakari SetepenRa, 4, participate in celebrations during an event for the first day of Kwanzaa, on Tuesday at the Martin Luther King Jr. Library in downtown Washington.

Death Penalty Case in D.C. Allowed

WASHINGTON | The District will see just the third capital punishment case tried in the past 30 years after a federal judge said prosecutors can seek the death penalty in a trial against a man.

Capital punishment is not allowed under district law. But Larry Gooch could get the death penalty because

he is charged under federal law.

Law enforcement officials say he was an enforcer in the "M Street Crew" drug gang. Gooch faces charges of murdering five people, racketeering and drug charges.

In a 60-page report, a federal district judge disagreed with defense arguments that the case should be

tried in D.C. Superior Court, where there is no death penalty. Instead, the judge said, the case is correctly charged under federal law.

Gooch is charged in the August 2000 deaths of Christopher Lane, 19, and William Cunningham, 27; the September 2002 killing of Miguel Miles, 34; and the February 2003 deaths of Calvin Cooper, 40, and his girlfriend, Yolanda Miller, 32. (AP)

Fenty Halfway to Party Funds Mark

WASHINGTON | If only money came as easily to everyone as it does to Washington Mayor-elect Adrian Fenty: After a record-setting \$3.8 million raised for his campaign, Fenty has raised almost half of the \$500,000 in donations he needs for

his Jan. 2 inaugural bash.

The party at the Washington Convention Center will be attended by 1,500 people. The ball is part of a full day of joint inaugural activities for the mayor and new D.C. Council.

It begins with a 7 a.m. prayer ser-

vice at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, then the swearing-in ceremony at 10 a.m. at the Convention Center. From 2 to 4 p.m., Fenty's new "bullpen" office will hold an open house on the third floor of the Wilson Building.

The black-tie-optional ball will top things off from 7 to 11 p.m. (AP)

Stabbing Follows a Va. Mall Dispute

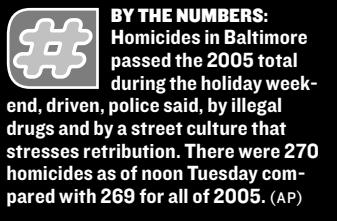
SPRINGFIELD, VA. | One person was stabbed Tuesday inside the Springfield Mall.

The stabbing occurred shortly after 4 p.m. following a dispute between two men, police said.

The victim was taken to a hos-

pital with potentially life-threatening injuries, officer Shelley Broderick said. A suspect was arrested shortly afterward outside the mall and treated for minor injuries.

The mall remained open, said a mall telephone operator. (AP)



The Lotteries

Tuesday, December 26

DISTRICT

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	2-9-8
Evening Lucky Numbers	9-4-3

Mid-day DC 4 **9-8-5-9**

Evening DC 4 **2-4-7-9**

Rolling Cash Five **27-15-21-30-34**

Daily 6 **33-35-25-9-24-12 (18)**

MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3	1-8-0
Evening Pick 3	0-4-6

Mid-day Pick 4

Evening Pick 4

Match 5

VIRGINIA

Mid-day Pick 3 (Tues.)

Evening Pick 3 (Mon.)

Mid-day Pick 4 (Tues.)

8-8-5-8

0-8-6-7

II-13-21-33-34 (4)

2-9-3-8

12-17-28-30-31

5-12-14-27-34

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office. Drawings that occur after Express's deadline will be published two days later.

Travel

Santa Fe To Go

Take a New Mexico road trip in Georgia O'Keeffe country

ON THE ROAD | The beauty of northern New Mexico's high deserts and mountains enchanted artist Georgia O'Keeffe when she first visited Santa Fe and Taos, and she made this majestic landscape her home-and the subject of many of her paintings-for almost the last four decades of her life.

Ah, Georgia, I thought repeatedly as I recently toured what fans like me now call "O'Keeffe Country," if only I could stay on as you did.

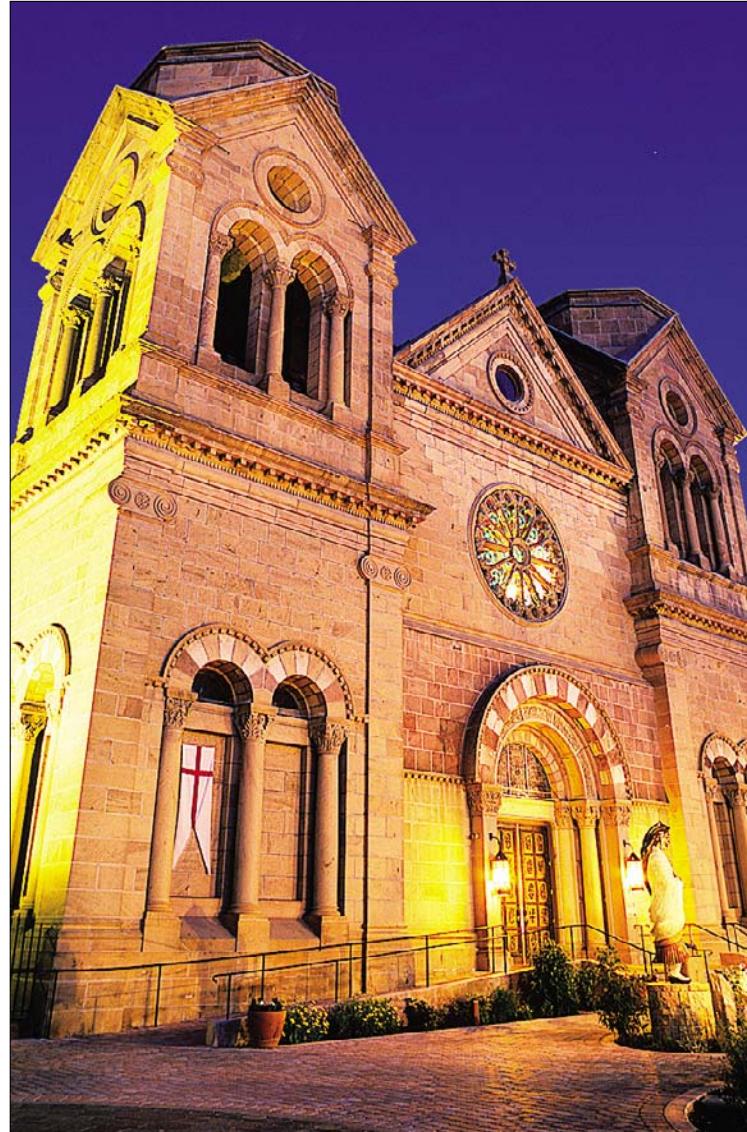
Futile dream that one, but at least I got to live it for a few days. And you can, too.

Although Santa Fe and Taos rank today as highly sophisticated arts-oriented communities, they prove surprisingly easy on the wallet. For all its ritzy appeal, New Mexico counts as one of America's cheaper vacation places.

Figure on paying about \$45 to \$60 a night in summer to rent a double in a name-brand motel and under \$10 per person for a heaping dinner plate of tacos, enchiladas, and other Mexican dishes savored in the Southwest.

Much of the art can be viewed for free in dozens of galleries in both towns. On a recent Friday night in Santa Fe, my wife and I went gallery hopping, sipping complimentary champagne or ginger ale and nibbling hors d'oeuvres at a series of public art-show debuts.

We felt like locals, chatting with the artists and gallery owners.



The mission church of San Geronimo, one of the earliest in New Mexico, was built near Taos Pueblo in the early 17th century by Roman Catholic missionaries.

A resident of New York in her younger years, O'Keeffe learned to drive when she moved to New Mexico, turning her car into a mobile studio.

This is a trip for art lovers in a rugged land that also draws lots of hardy backpackers, mountain bikers, and white-water enthusiasts. JAMES THURSTON (BUDGET TRAVEL MAGAZINE)

Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and likely get to see its Miraflores Locks in operation. **WHEN:** Jan. 2-Apr. 15, 2007.

DETAILS: Airport and hotel transfers, buffet breakfast daily in Panama City, and all meals and drinks on the Playa Blanca are included, as well as a three-and-a-half-hour sightseeing tour of Panama City. Additional airport taxes and fuel surcharges total about \$209 per person; a Panama

tourist card is \$5. Lowest rates based on Wed. and Thurs. departures; add \$60 per person each way for travel on alternate days. Based on double occupancy; single supplement \$261.

CONTACT: Tara Tours, 1-800-327-0080, taratours.com. KATE APPLETON (BUDGET TRAVEL MAGAZINE)

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FROM BUDGET TRAVEL MAGAZINE

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Cars



SHARE YOUR TOYOTA: With Toyota expected to surpass Ford as the No. 2 U.S. automaker next month, Ford CEO Alan Mulally made a trip to Japan last week to meet with Toyota executives in exploring a potential production partnership.

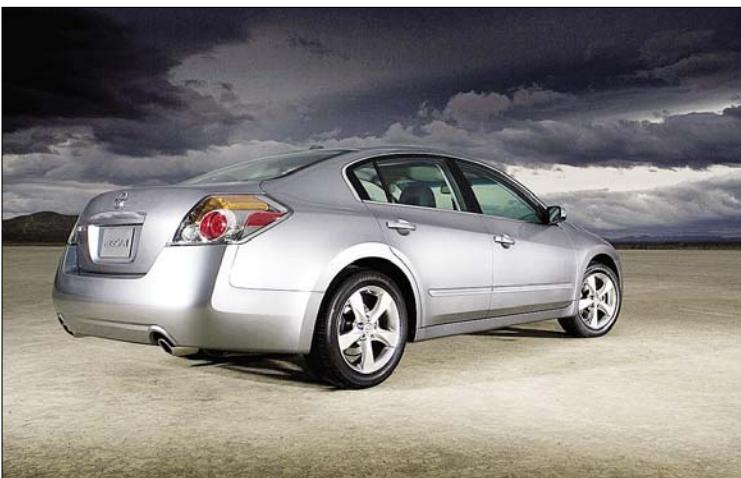
Chicken Soup for the Soulless

Nissan's new hybrid has an identity crisis, but is still a good idea

ROAD TEST | You know that horror movie where the mad scientist straps two victims to gurneys, lowers the metal skull caps on them and, by dint of special effects the victims' personalities are switched?

The 2007 Nissan Altima hybrid is like that. The company's first effort at a gas-electric auto drives like a Nissan with a soul transplant: ninja-in-the-night silence at low speeds; a tremble when the gas engine lights up; bubbly, torque-infused acceleration as the gas and electric motors pull on the oars.

This is not a car that Nissan wanted to build, particularly. Nissan



THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

The 2007 Nissan Altima Hybrid is lacking in sex appeal and gets a little too excited when it comes time to exercise its eco-friendly chops. Still, it's an important step.

chief Carlos Ghosn has long argued that hybrid cars were a money-los-

er demand.

Earlier in December, Nissan exec Dominique Thormann admitted the

NUTS & BOLTS

→ 2007 NISSAN ALTIMA HYBRID

\$25,500

Powertrain: Gas-electric, with 2.5-liter, DOHC, 16-valve four cylinder with variable valve timing; permanent magnet AC synchronous electric motor; continuously variable transmission

Wheelbase: 109.3 inches

Measurements: 189.8 inches long, 3,448 pounds

Horsepower: 198 hp

0-60 mph: More than nine seconds.

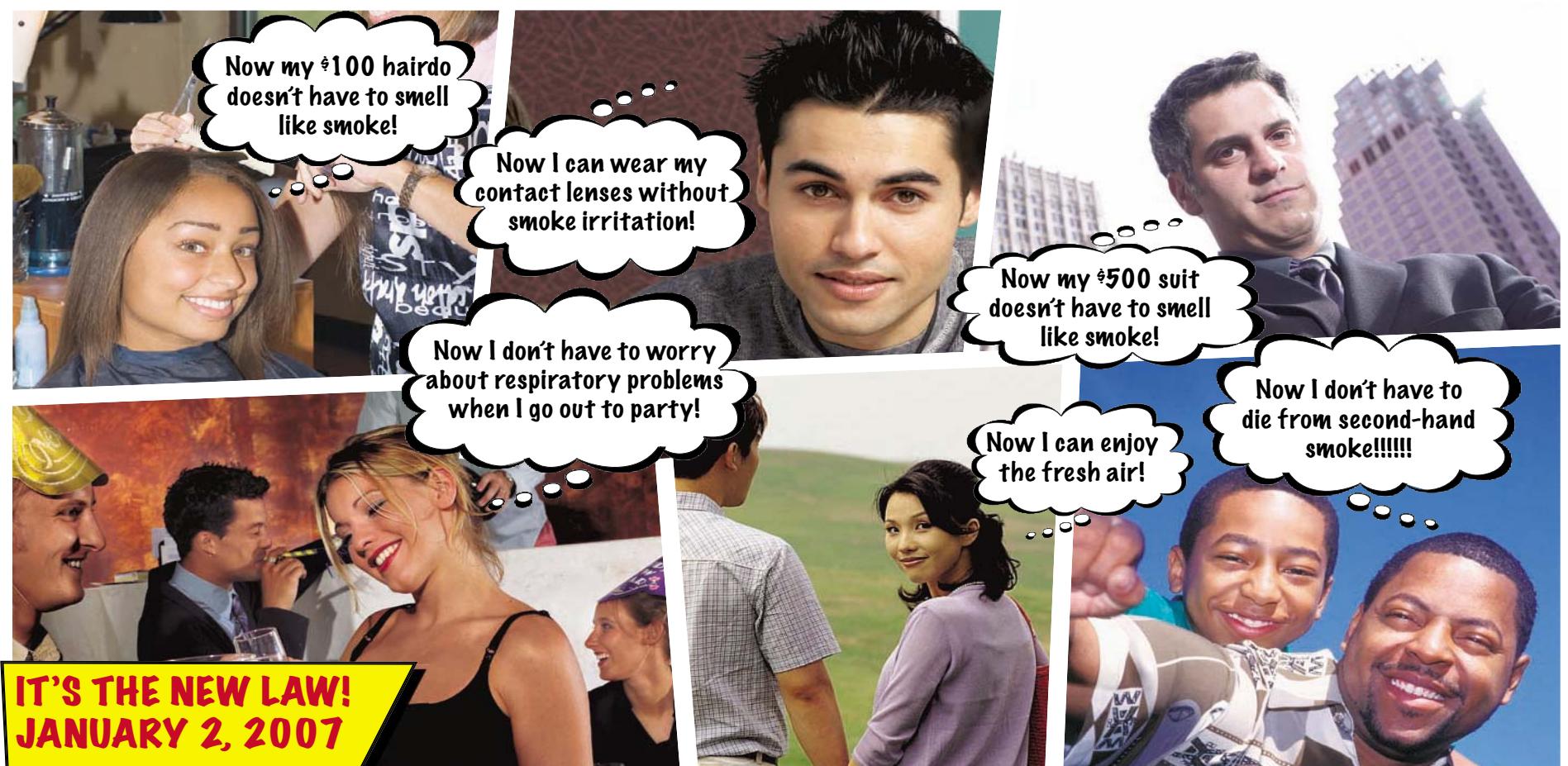
company was building the Altima hybrid at a loss only to comply with California's partial zero-emission

vehicle mandate.

Yet, collectively, Nissan seems to have had a come-to-Jesus moment on hybrids. Recently, Nissan announced its "Green Program 2010," which — in addition to looking for cuts in carbon emissions from its factories — will develop a hybrid vehicle using in-house technology, as well as pursue plug-in hybrid and all-electric technology. Nissan also announced it would create its own company to produce and market advanced lithium-ion batteries, which are the critical component to make alternative vehicles work.

Bookmark this moment in cars history, because what is emerging is something like consensus.

Hybrid doubters — who once railed that the batteries were sketchy, the costs of the "hybrid premium" unrecoverable, the mileage gains overstated, and so on — are beginning to look like the Flat Earth Society. DAN NEIL (THE LOS ANGELES TIMES)



Restaurants and all enclosed public workplaces are already smoke-free, but **DID YOU KNOW.....**

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Sports



"What he's done in tennis, I think, is far greater than what I've done in golf. He's lost what ... five matches in three years? That's pretty good."

— AP Male Athlete of the Year Tiger Woods on his friend Roger Federer, who finished 92-5 this year.

Redskins on Record-Breaking Pace

Team is set to pass franchise marks in all the wrong categories

REDSKINS | With one game left in their season and another offseason of scrutiny ahead, the Washington Redskins will hope to avoid setting several records Saturday against the New York Giants. The Redskins, 5-10 and without consecutive victories since Oct. 1, are on the verge of setting franchise and league marks — for all of the wrong things.

A loss would put the Redskins at 5-11, matching their lowest win total in any season since 1994, and would give the team the worst season of coach Joe Gibbs's career (he won six games in 2004). Gibbs is already assured of having more



Rams RB Steven Jackson tries to shake Vernon Fox in the Redskins' OT loss at St. Louis. If they lose Saturday, the Redskins will match their worst season since 1994.

losing seasons (two) in his return, than he had in his first stint from 1981-1992. With a loss Saturday, the Redskins would finish 1-5 against the NFC East for the second time in three years; the team has not finished that low in such a short period since placing last in 1993-1994.

"We don't want New York to sweep us," Gibbs said. "That's a big deal for us. We want to finish the right way."

Gibbs is 21-26 since his return; Washington's record over the previous three seasons was 20-28.

Washington has just 12 takeaways this season, and will need to force three turnovers Saturday just to tie the all-time low for a 16-week season. St. Louis and Green Bay each caused 15 takeaways in the 2004 season; the Redskins have

just six in the last 10 games.

"That kind of blows my mind, how we wound up in that situation," Gibbs said of the drought.

The team has just 18 sacks for the season and will need a huge reversal not to set a franchise low in that department (the 2001 Redskins had 25 sacks). The Redskins also have

A Hope in the Hokies

→ Virginia Tech coach Frank Beamer always had big dreams for the Hokies — even when he was still in high school, hoping to play in Blacksburg. | **Today, Sports**

IN The Washington Post

six interceptions as a team; the franchise low is 11 (set in 1982, when teams played just nine games).

"Certainly, it's been disappointing for us," Gibbs said. "I wouldn't imagine we'd go through something like this." **JASON LA CANFORA** (THE WASHINGTON POST)

Ochoa Is AP Athlete Of the Year

GOLF | Lorena Ochoa swept all the major honors on the U.S. LPGA and picked up another award at the end of the season with a landslide victory as the AP Female Athlete of the Year.

"That was my goal in January, just to be the best player on the tour," she said recently. "I always knew I could do it. I think I've been raising my level of golf, and also more mature now inside the golf course and outside, too. It helps."



Ochoa

NFC Playoff Picture Not So Simple

Jets and Broncos are in the driver's seat for the last two AFC spots

FOOTBALL | The New York Giants have lost six of their last seven games and have played worse than uninspired football for the entire second half of the season. Yet if they win Saturday night in Washington, they almost surely will make the playoffs.

That's because the Giants control almost all the tiebreakers among the five 7-8 teams vying for the NFC's last wild-card spot. They are tied with Green Bay for the best conference record at 6-5 and their strength of victory and strength of schedule is prohibitively better than the Packers.

The scenario is simpler in the AFC, where Denver and the New York Jets (both 9-6) just have to win and they get the fifth and sixth spots. Both are at home to Bay Area teams — the Jets to dismal Oakland (2-13) and the Broncos to improved but still building San Francisco (6-9).

Because of all that mediocrity, 20 teams are alive going into the last weekend of the regular sea-



New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning, center, is sacked by Scott Shanle in the fourth quarter of Sunday's game. The Giants have lost six of their last seven games.

son, the most since 1970, when the NFL merged with the old AFL. Nine teams have clinched

and 11 more are in the running for three berths, although some are real long shots.

WEEK 17 CRUISERS

Nine teams have clinched playoff spots heading into the last week of the NFL season:

- The Bears have clinched home field throughout the playoffs.
- The Saints and Chargers have both secured first-round byes.
- Those clubs, plus the Patriots, Ravens, Colts, and Seahawks, have all won their respective divisions.
- The Eagles and Cowboys have both clinched at least a wild card playoff berth.

No team with a losing record has made the NFL playoffs during a non-strike season.

The NFC is a mess, in large part because the so-called "good" teams — the Giants, Carolina and defending conference champion Seattle — have been anything but, especially down the stretch.

Among those three they have lost 13 of their last 15 games, and one of the wins was by New York over the Panthers. Seattle (8-7) is in the playoffs, backing in as champions of the West last week when San Francisco lost to Arizona. But the Seahawks, who play in Tampa on Sunday, have lost three straight, not the kind of momentum you want to take into the postseason. **DAVE GOLDBERG** (AP)

It was the fourth straight year a golfer has won AP Female Athlete. Sweden's Sorenstam won the award the previous three years.

DOUG FERGUSON (AP)

RETURN TO SENDER: The Diamondbacks have offered a package of players to the Yankees in exchange for Randy Johnson, a baseball official told ESPN. The 43-year-old Johnson, who is owed \$16 million in the final year of his contract, spent six seasons in Arizona and won four Cy Young Awards.



Sports

Better the 2nd Time Around the Ice

The Caps' Ovechkin has been a model of consistency this year

CAPITALS | Close to halfway through his second NHL season, Alex Ovechkin is getting comfortable in Washington. He has homes in both Arlington and cyberspace — where his recently unveiled Web site asks fans to “hang out, leave me a message and talk to each other” — and supports his own dedicated fan section, the “Crazy 8s.”

He's also made himself comfortable in front of the opposition net. Facing the pressure to live up to his award-winning rookie season, the responsibility to carry his team and eager defensemen with a year's worth of film to reference, Ovechkin is having a blast and scoring at a rate ahead of last season's. His 24 goals in 35 games were the best in the NHL heading into Tuesday night's action.

“It's the second year. I have experience,” Ovechkin said. “Off the ice, on the ice, you learn to play in the NHL. I learn how I must play and the coach teaches me a lot.”

Caps captain Chris Clark said that the most impressive aspect of Ovechkin's game is his consistency, which will be critical as Washington (16-12-5) plays six times in 11



PRESTON KERES/TWP

The Caps' Alex Ovechkin takes one of his five shots in a disappointing 4-1 loss to New Jersey on Friday. He rebounded the next night with two first-period points.

days starting with tonight's game against Montreal.

“He hasn't really had the ups and downs. One, two games and

he doesn't score and all of a sudden he's right back at it,” Clark said.

Ovechkin has not had consecutive pointless games and is a big rea-

ALEX'S ACHIEVEMENTS

Alex Ovechkin has often been dazzling. Here's a look at some of his stats through Dec. 25:

22/20 Goals and assists through 35 games last year

24/23 Goals and assists through 35 games this year, fourth best in the league

76 Goals since the start of last season, best in the NHL and good for 29th on the Caps' career list

187 Shots taken this year, also tops in the NHL

5 Number of game-winning goals this year, second in the NHL



CHRIS MCGRATH/GETTY IMAGES

Steelers coach Bill Cowher said he will discuss possible retirement next week.

Cowher to Announce Plans Soon

Steelers may be looking for their 3rd new coach since 1969 next week

FOOTBALL | Bill Cowher apparently won't make anyone wait to learn if he will return as the Pittsburgh Steelers' coach next season.

Cowher is expected to announce his future plans within a few days of Sunday's season-ending game at Cincinnati, one that is without playoff implications for the no-longer-defending Super Bowl champion Steelers (7-8).

“That's for next week,” Cowher said Tuesday when asked if he would return next season. “We'll talk about that next week. It won't go long. I'm not sure what the time frame is. But I think the most important thing is to be focused on this game.”

That he appears ready to announce his decision quickly could be a sign the Steelers may soon be looking for a new coach for only the second time since 1969. Chuck Noll (1969-91) and Cowher (1992-present) have been their only coaches since then.

Two Steelers assistants, offensive coordinator Ken Whisenhunt and offensive line coach Russ Grimm, are seen as viable candidates — even though the Steelers haven't promoted a coach from within since Mike Nixon in 1965.

Several players, including Joey Porter, said recently they expect Cowher to return for a 16th season. ALAN ROBINSON (AP)

Questions Answered in Baltimore

Ravens have taken the NFL by storm and are ready for a playoff run

RAVENS | As they stumbled to a 6-10 finish a year ago, the Baltimore Ravens were forced to answer serious questions about the state of a team that fully expected to be in the Super Bowl.

Could the Ravens win with Kyle Boller at quarterback? Was Jamal Lewis still capable of carrying the running game? Could Ray Lewis still dominate at middle linebacker, or even stay healthy for an entire season? And, most importantly, could coach Brian Billick cope with



CHRIS MCGRATH/GETTY IMAGES

Ravens RB Jamal Lewis was a major question mark coming into this season.

the toned-down persona demanded by owner Steve Bisciotti?

Twelve months later, only one question surrounds the rejuvenated Ravens: How far can they go in the playoffs?

Given that this team has far more balance than the one that won the 2001 Super Bowl, there's reason to believe the Ravens could finish the season under a sea of confetti, taking turns hoisting the Vince Lombardi Trophy.

“With the type of defense we play and the way our offense is clicking right now,” Ray Lewis said, “we're going to be a hard team to beat in the playoffs.”

The Ravens (12-3) must first take

care of a few minor details, beginning with a victory over Buffalo at home Sunday. That will provide Baltimore with a coveted first-round bye and enable the Ravens to finish no worse than the No. 2 seed in the AFC.

“It's clear what's at stake for us,” Billick said Tuesday.

Baltimore can earn home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs if it defeats Buffalo and San Diego loses to Arizona. Even if that combination doesn't occur, the Ravens are in excellent position for a playoff run.

Asked if the team has reached its peak, Billick said, “I hope not. I think this team really believes we've got our best football ahead of us, and they're excited about that.”

DAVID GINSBURG (AP)

Entertainment



EXHIBITING FUNNY BEHAVIOR: The comedy "Night at the Museum," starring Ben Stiller, scared away all other holiday weekend competition, coming in No. 1 at the box office last weekend. "Rocky Balboa" also had a respectable showing.



TOKENS OF AFFECTION: Fans lay mementoes, flowers and candles on James Brown's Hollywood Walk of Fame star.

Godfather Rests

Soul legend James Brown's colorful life comes to an end

APPRECIATION | "Godfather of Soul" James Brown remained the hardest-working man in show business to the end, telling friends from his hospital bed that he would be in Times Square on New Year's Eve.

His heart gave out a few hours later, on Christmas morning.

All Christmas day, famous fans from Mick Jagger to Snoop Dogg to the Rev. Al Sharpton shared memories of their mentor and idol, while other fans left candles on Brown's Hollywood Walk of Fame star and streamed to his statue in his boyhood hometown of Augusta, Ga.

"Y'all lost the Godfather of

Soul, but I lost my father. I know the whole world loved him just as much as we loved him, so we're not mourning by ourselves," Brown's daughter Venisha Brown told The Augusta Chronicle.

The 73-year-old pompadoured dynamo, whose classic singles include "Papa's Got a Brand New Bag" and "I Got You (I Feel Good)," died of heart failure less than two

days after he had been hospitalized with pneumonia and only three days after leading his annual holiday toy giveaway in Augusta.

"I ain't got the same energy," Brown had told the New York Post a week earlier, "but I'm sharper."

One of the major musical influences of the past 50 years, James Brown was to rhythm and dance music what Bob Dylan was to lyrics. From Jagger to Michael Jackson, David Bowie to Public Enemy, his rapid-footed dancing, hard-charging beats and heartfelt yet often unintelligible vocals changed the musical landscape.

Brown, who lived in Beech Island, S.C., near the Georgia line, had a turbulent personal life that included charges of abusing drugs and alcohol.

His stage act was as memorable, and as imitated, as his records, with his twirls and spins and flowing cape, his repeated faints to the floor. With his tight pants, eye makeup and outrageous hair, Brown set the stage for younger stars such as Jackson and Prince. And the early rap generation overwhelmingly sampled his music and voice as they laid the foundation of hip-hop culture.

"He was dramatic to the end — dying on Christmas Day," said the Rev. Jesse Jackson, a civil rights leader and a friend of Brown's since 1955. "Almost a dramatic, poetic moment. He'll be all over the news all over the world today. He would have it no other way."

HARRY R. WEBER (AP)

Today's Top Stops

FOR COMPLETE EVENT LISTINGS SEE WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT



HOLIDAY WEEK

Spring Break

As part of the National Museum of the American Indian's Holiday Week of performances, demonstrations and events, the group Halau Ho'omau performs hula and Hawaiian chant and music, bringing a little island sun to our gloomy mid-Atlantic December.

→ NMAI, 4th Street & Independence Avenue NW; 2 & 4 p.m., free; 202-633-1000, nmai.si.edu.

FAT JOE

Life's Too Good



2

Fat Joe may want to rethink his image — again. The big guy from the Bronx has smoothed away the grit and gotten very fond of VIP room perks, and his rhymes have suffered of late. See if the Terror Squad capo can outpace a bad case of cushy-itis.

→ Fur, 33 Patterson St. NE; 10 p.m., 202-842-3401, furnightclub.com.

AREA MEN ROCK OUT Good Time Had by All

3 You won't find a better rock bar gain anywhere in town than this: Three local bands — old-school, hard-charging rockers Velhalla (from Silver Spring) and Exiles (on the lam from Bethesda) and D.C. Afropoppers Elikeh — shake the rafters while you enjoy for only a sawbuck.

→ Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna; 7:30 p.m., \$10; 703-255-1566, jamminjava.com.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Please send press releases and photos to expressevents@readexpress.com

Cox Digs Up Some Tasty 'Dirt'

The new FX series shines the spotlight on the paparazzi

THE SCOOP | In her seductive new FX broadcast network series, "Dirt," Courtney Cox plays Lucy Spiller, the editor of tabloid magazines.

The series deftly layers glamour's standard trappings over a surreal heart of darkness — Lucy's favorite paparazzo (played by Ian Hart) is schizophrenic, and we see his pained hallucinations as he pains his celeb-

ity targets. Then there's the show's layered depiction of the relationship between the entertainment industry and the tabloids.

Cox isn't just going along for the ride: "Dirt" is from the production company she runs with her husband, David Arquette, 35. The two are executive producers with series creator Matthew Carnahan and writer Joel Fields.

"It all stemmed from when I was pregnant," Cox said in a phone interview. "The paparazzi was really hounding me ... and some really



Courtney Cox leaves her "Friends" persona behind as a ruthless tabloid editor.

crazy stuff happened."

Does Cox find it difficult to approach the tabloid world with any degree of understanding, if not sympathy?

"I feel like there's two sides to everything," she said. "Also, it's television. You love to hate characters — that's always a fun thing — but you also have to have something you can hold on to, to be able to relate to them."

"We're not really trying to take anybody down," she added.

LYNN ELBER (AP)

Entertainment



HOMIES ALONE: The psychobilly stalwarts check in to the Rock 'n' Roll Hotel.

Retro for Moderns

Punk-rockbilly band Pessimist Parade gives the scene a jolt

LOCAL HEROES | "We're coming through. You better watch out, homie," Pessimist Parade bassist Flora Lucini warns. After playing countless gigs in the D.C. punk underground and around the mid-Atlantic area over the past several years, the psychobilly quartet is finally performing at the Black Cat, where they'll open for District hardcore heavyweights Alleged Bricks and V.P.R.

Lucini's bandmates, none of whom is older than 23, are equally brash. Drummer Rio Samsie, guitarist Thomas Slick and singer JJ Damage are justifiably proud of their ability to meld your grandfather's blues scales with the speed, energy and over-the-top antics of punk rock. The band, which covers Johnny Cash and Johnny Thunders in addition to performing originals, clearly draws from varied inspirations like Hank Williams, GG Allin, Chuck Berry and D.C. punk lifer Kent Stax.

Bands have fused punk and rock-

abilly since the '70s, though. Does PP offer anything new? "Yes," Lucini replied. "Colored people!" (Lucini is Afro-Brazilian; Samsie's of Indonesian origin.)

Damage said he thinks his band "brings a lot to the table, energy-wise. Bands aren't as nuts as we are. I roll around and Tom gets out in the audience and plays and we're able to keep a beat at the same time. We play a lot of older, punk-sounding stuff, too, on top of the psychobilly stuff."

Slick — who claims to have been "born and raised on the streets of Southeast Capitol Hill" — said what separates his band from others is a mission to "bring back danger."

And Samsie maintains that D.C. could use a little danger. He wishes "people would see D.C. as more than a 'DeaDCity.' People think there's nothing going on anymore, which is not true at all. There's a good punk scene, a good hardcore scene. There's lots of good bands. Just because the era of [Fugazi's Ian] MacKaye is over, doesn't mean that it's over!" **TIM FOLLOS (EXPRESS)**

→ Black Cat, 1811 14th St. NW, 9 p.m., \$8; 202-667-7960. (U St.-Cardozo)



MICHELLE REPIS/EXPRESS

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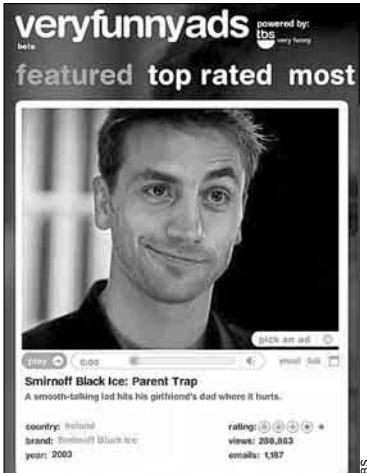
Television

The Animal Inside

Kevin Nealon hosts a look back at a beastly year for commercials

FILLER | "Funniest Commercials of the Year: 2006" (9 p.m., TBS). The top 10 ads have been selected by an Internet poll, but this special features 55 spots in all.

Nealon makes the most of his host duties, which are limited to a few man-in-the-street gags in New York's Times Square and general observations about commercials geared toward men's baser instincts. Several ads depict guys as unchanged since cave-dweller



BUY THIS: Funny tag lines and monkeys wearing suits sweep the Addies.

days, and several others concentrate on the lengths to which men will go to deceive women or obtain beer, sometimes at the same time.

And it's not only men who haven't evolved. A number of these 21st-century commercials depict monkeys dressed up like executives and other animal acts. The best of the bunch features Ellen DeGeneres preparing for a show while chatting with her "staff" — a menagerie of critters.

When not asking us to laugh at men behaving like beasts or beasts behaving like people, the best of these ads trade in extreme physical stunts. One remarkable ad shows a married couple trying to kill each other in ingenious ways so that the surviving spouse gets the SUV. **KEVIN MCDONOUGH** (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

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days, and several others concentrate on the lengths to which men will go to deceive women or obtain beer, sometimes at the same time.

IT'S STILL ON? "The King of Queens" is putting down the sceptre. The old-school CBS comedy starring Kevin James as a dumb lug and Leah Remini, left, as his inexplicably hot wife, somehow hung on for nine seasons. CBS said this season will be the show's last.



ON TV TONIGHT

MUSIC TO SMASH CHAIRS BY

Michael Tilson Thomas hosts **KEEPING SCORE** (9 p.m. PBS), which in this episode looks at how Igor Stravinsky's riot-provoking "The Rites of Spring" came about.

KISS HER ALREADY, DOPE!

What's the opposite of dog days? Reindeer days? Anyway, that between-the-holidays downtime means reruns. So Fox shows a couple of old **BONES** (8 & 9 p.m.) in which Dr. Brennan looks serious and adorable and Agent Booth doesn't know what to do with her.

HIGH-GROSSING, ALL RIGHT

Mel Gibson's **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST** (10 p.m., Showtime), seems more appropriate for Easter viewing.

KIDS TODAY, WITH THEIR



FREAKY 'FRIDAY': Tim and Lyla make eyes in the episode called "Git 'Er Done."

STEROIDS AND SEXCAPADES ...

Three **FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS** (NBC) episodes begin at 8 p.m. for you soap-opera — uh, football fans, including the one where Lyla and Tim are suspected of doing just what they've been doing (9 p.m.). **ARION BERGER** (EXPRESS)

12.27.06		6:00 PM	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
LOCAL CHANNELS		WRC 4	News	Nightly News	Access Hollywood	Friday Night Lights	Friday Night Lights	Friday Night Lights "Full Hearts"	Friday Night Lights	Friday Night Lights	Friday Night Lights	News	Tonight Show
WTG 5		Seinfeld	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Seinfeld	Bones	Bones "The Woman in the Car"	Bones "The Woman in the Tunnel"	News	News	News	Geraldo at Large	
WJLA 7		News	ABC Wld News	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez	Primetime (N)	News	(35) Nightline	
WUSA 9		News	Evening News	News	Entertainment	King of Queens	Two/Half Men	Criminal Minds	CSI: NY "Jamalot"	News	News	Late Show	
WDC 20		Scrub	Scrub	Judge Joe Brown	Judge Judy (N)	Wicked Wicked Games "Silly Rabbit"	Watch Over "Progress" (N)	Watch Over "Progress" (N)	The Tyra Banks Show	Still Standing	Still Standing	Still Standing	
WMPT 22		The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)	Business Rpt.	Artworks-Week	Dancesport World	Washing Away							
WETA 26		BBC World News	Business Rpt.	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)	Keeping Score "Beethoven's Eroica"	Keeping Score	Keeping Score (Part 2 of 3)	Keeping Score (Part 3 of 3)	Keeping Score	Keeping Score	Keeping Score	Charlie Rose (N)	
WHUT 32		Business Schl	Tavis Smiley	BBC World News	Moneywise	American Experience (DVS)	The Prize	BBC World News	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N)	Charlie Rose (N)	Sex and the City	
WDCW 50		My Wife and Kids	My Wife and Kids	Friends	Friends	One Tree Hill	One Tree Hill	One Tree Hill "Some You Give Away"	Will & Grace	Will & Grace	Will & Grace	Sex and the City	
A&E		Crossing Jordan "Gray Murders"	CSI: Miami "The Score"	CSI: Miami "Silencer"	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Criss Angel	Criss Angel					
Animal		The Crocodile Hunter	The Most Extreme "Daredevils"	Blue Planet: Seas of Life	Alligators	Alligators	Animal Planet Heroes Phoenix	Blue Planet: Seas of Life					
BET		106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Access Granted	25 Strong: The BET Silver Anniversary Special From Los Angeles	25 Strong: The BET Silver Anniversary Special From Los Angeles	25 Strong: The BET Silver Anniversary Special From Los Angeles	25 Strong: The BET Silver Anniversary Special From Los Angeles	25 Strong: The BET Silver Anniversary Special From Los Angeles	25 Strong: The BET Silver Anniversary Special From Los Angeles	25 Strong: The BET Silver Anniversary Special From Los Angeles	25 Strong: The BET Silver Anniversary Special From Los Angeles	Jamie Foxx	Jamie Foxx
Bravo		Top Chef Low-cost appetizer	Top Chef Gourmet sandwich	Top Chef "Wedding Bell Blues"	Top Chef "Napa's Finest"	Top Chef "Wedding Bell Blues"	Top Chef "Napa's Finest"	Top Chef "Finale"					
Comedy		(5:00) "Look Who's Talking Now"	Scrubs	Scrubs "My Hero"	Scrubs	Scrubs	South Park	South Park					
Court		Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Cops	Cops	Most Shocking "Under Siege"	Forensic Files (N)	Forensic Files	Psychic Detect	Psychic Detect	Psychic Detect	LA Forensics	
Discovery		It Takes a Thief "Dream Come True"	MythBusters "Breaking Glass"	Extreme Engineering "Space Tower"	MythBusters	MythBusters "Breaking Glass"	Extreme Engineering "Space Tower"	Extreme Engineering "Space Tower"	Stunt Junkies	Stunt Junkies	Stunt Junkies	MythBusters "Breaking Glass"	
DISCH		Mystery Diagnosis	Mystery Diagnosis	Mysterious pains	Big as Life: Obesity in America	Plastic Surgery: Before and After	Plastic Surgery: Before and After	Plastic Surgery: Before and After	Extreme Surgery	Extreme Surgery	Extreme Surgery	Big as Life: Obesity in America	
Disney		Hannah Montana	Zack & Cody	Phil of the Future	That's So Raven	** "The Lizzie McGuire Movie" (2003) Hilary Duff, Adam Lamb	** "The Lizzie McGuire Movie" (2003) Hilary Duff, Adam Lamb	** "The Lizzie McGuire Movie" (2003) Hilary Duff, Adam Lamb	Seinfeld: The True Hollywood Story	Seinfeld: The True Hollywood Story	Seinfeld: The True Hollywood Story	E! News	
E!		Angelina Jolie: True Hollywood Story	E! News (N)	The Daily 10 (N)	Friends: The E! True Hollywood Story	The Daily 10							
FX		King of the Hill	King of the Hill	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	** "Phone Booth" (2002, Suspense) Colin Farrell, Kiefer Sutherland	** "Phone Booth" (2002, Suspense) Colin Farrell, Kiefer Sutherland	** "Phone Booth" (2002, Suspense) Colin Farrell, Kiefer Sutherland	** "Phone Booth" (2002, Suspense) Colin Farrell, Kiefer Sutherland	** "Phone Booth" (2002, Suspense) Colin Farrell, Kiefer Sutherland	** "Phone Booth" (2002, Suspense) Colin Farrell, Kiefer Sutherland	** "Phone Booth" (2002, Suspense) Colin Farrell, Kiefer Sutherland	
HGTV		If Walls Could Rezone	What You Get	House Hunters	Designed to Sell	Hidden Potential	Design on a Dime	Design on a Dime	House Hunters	House Hunters	House Worth?	Junk Brothers	
Family		Everwood "Fate Accompli"	Everwood "Fallout"	** "Annie" (1982) Aileen Quinn, Daddy Warbucks protects little orphan Annie in 1930s New York	** "Annie" (1982) Aileen Quinn, Daddy Warbucks protects little orphan Annie in 1930s New York	** "Annie" (1982) Aileen Quinn, Daddy Warbucks protects little orphan Annie in 1930s New York	** "Annie" (1982) Aileen Quinn, Daddy Warbucks protects little orphan Annie in 1930s New York	** "Annie" (1982) Aileen Quinn, Daddy Warbucks protects little orphan Annie in 1930s New York	** "Annie" (1982) Aileen Quinn, Daddy Warbucks protects little orphan Annie in 1930s New York	** "Annie" (1982) Aileen Quinn, Daddy Warbucks protects little orphan Annie in 1930s New York	** "Annie" (1982) Aileen Quinn, Daddy Warbucks protects little orphan Annie in 1930s New York	The 700 Club	
History		Modern Marvels Large machines	Modern Marvels: World's Strongest	Countdown to Armageddon	Decoding the Past	Decoding the Past	Decoding the Past	Mega Disasters					
Lifetime		Reba	Reba	Still Standing	Still Standing	Reba	Reba	Reba	"Last Exit" (2006, Suspense) Kathleen Robertson, Andrea Roth	"Last Exit" (2006, Suspense) Kathleen Robertson, Andrea Roth	"Last Exit" (2006, Suspense) Kathleen Robertson, Andrea Roth	Will & Grace	
MTV		Real World-Rd	Real World-Rd	Sucker Free	Twentyfourseven	Twentyfourseven	The Real World	Exposed					
NICK		Danny Phantom "Reality Trip"	Avatar: The Last Airbender	The Fairly OddParents "Fairy Idol!"	Full House	Full House	Full House	Full House	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Fresh Prince	
SCIFI		Stargate SG-1 "Divide and Conquer"	Heroes "Seven Minutes to Midnight"	Heroes "Homecoming"	Heroes "Six Months Ago"	Heroes "Six Months Ago"	Heroes "Fallout"	Heroes "Fallout"	Bermuda Triangle: New Secret	Bermuda Triangle: New Secret	Bermuda Triangle: New Secret	Bermuda Triangle: New Secret	
SPIKE		(4:30) *** "You Only Live Twice"	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	MXC	MXC							
TBS		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Every-Raymond	Every-Raymond	Every-Raymond	Funnies Commercials: 2006	Funnies Commercials: 2006	My Boys (N)	My Boys (N)	My Boys (N)	Sex and the City	
TLC		Little People, Big World	Family Trip "Taylor Family"	World's Tallest Man	World's Tallest Man	World's Tallest Man	Untold Stories of the E.R. (N)	Untold Stories of the E.R. (N)	Born Without a Face	Born Without a Face	Born Without a Face	World's Tallest Man	
TNT		Law & Order "Asterisk"	Without a Trace "In the Dark"	Without a Trace "Off the Tracks"	Without a Trace "Off the Tracks"	Without a Trace "Off the Tracks"	Without a Trace "Gung-Ho"	Without a Trace "Gung-Ho"	Without a Trace "Wannabe"	Without a Trace "Wannabe"	Without a Trace "Wannabe"	Las Vegas "White Christmas"	
USA		Law & Order: Criminal Intent "One"	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Law & Order: Criminal Intent								
VH1		I Love the '90s "1991"	I Love the '90s "1992"	I Love the '90s "1993"	I Love the '90s "1993"	I Love the '90s "1993"	I Love the '90s "1994"	I Love the '90s "1994"	I Love the '90s "1995"	I Love the '90s "1995"	I Love the '90s "1995"	I Love the '90s "1996"	
TELEM		Sala de Parejas	Noti-Telemundo	Viuda de Blanco (N)	Marina (N)	Amor Mio (N)	**** "The Last Boy Scout" (1991, Acción) Bruce Willis	**** "The Last Boy Scout" (1991, Acción) Bruce Willis	Noti-Telemundo	Noti-Telemundo	Noti-Telemundo	Laura	
UNIV		Que Locura	Noticiero Univ	Heridas de Amor (N)	La Fea Más Bella (N)	Mundo de Fieras (N)	Don Francisco Presenta	Don Francisco Presenta	Primer Impacto	Primer Impacto	Primer Impacto	Noticiero Univ.	
SPORTS		ESPN	SportsCenter (Live)	Breakdown	College Football Emerald Bowl -- Florida State vs. UCLA, From San Francisco. (Live)	College Football Emerald Bowl -- Florida State vs. UCLA, From San Francisco. (Live)	Anderson Cooper 360	Anderson Cooper 360	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	
ESPN2		Madden Nation	Madden Nation	Madden Nation	Madden Nation	Madden Nation	College Basketball Bradley at Northern Iowa. (Live)	College Basketball Bradley at Northern Iowa. (Live)	Quite Frankly With Stephen A. Smith	Quite Frankly With Stephen A. Smith	Quite Frankly With Stephen A. Smith	Quite Frankly With Stephen A. Smith	
CSN		Totally Football	SportsNite (Live)	NHL Hockey	Montreal Canadiens at Washington Capitals. (Subject to Blackout)	NHL Hockey	SportsNite (Live)	SportsNite (Live)	Ship Shape TV	Ship Shape TV	Ship Shape TV	Final Score	
NEWS		CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight	The Situation Room	Paula Zahn Now	Larry King Live	Anderson Cooper 360	Anderson Cooper 360					
FNC		Special Report (Live)	The Fox Report With Shepard Smith	The O'Reilly Factor (Live)	Hannity & Colmes (Live)	Hannity & Colmes (Live)	On the Record-Van Susteren	On the Record-Van Susteren	The O'Reilly Factor	The O'Reilly Factor	The O'Reilly Factor	The O'Reilly Factor	
MSNBC		Tucker	Hardball	Best of Keith Olbermann's Comments	Scarborough Country	Scarborough Country	Death and the Dentist (N)	Death and the Dentist (N)	Blood Secrets	Blood Secrets	Blood Secrets	Blood Secrets	
NOTES		AMC	(5:30) *** "Hoosiers" (1986, Drama) Gene Hackman, Dennis Hopper. 'PG'	** "Never Been Kissed" (1999) Drew Barrymore. 'PG-13'	** "Never Been Kissed" (1999) Drew Barrymore. 'PG-13'	** "Never Been Kissed" (1999) Drew Barrymore. 'PG-13'	** "Never Been Kissed" (1999) Drew Barrymore. 'PG-13'	** "Never Been Kissed" (1999) Drew Barrymore. 'PG-13'	** "Never Been Kissed" (1999) Drew Barrymore. 'PG-13'	** "Never Been Kissed" (1999) Drew Barrymore. 'PG-13'	** "Never Been Kissed" (1999) Drew Barrymore. 'PG-13'	** "Never Been Kissed" (1999) Drew Barrymore. 'PG-13'	
		TCM	(5:00) *** "Paint Your Wagon" (1969) Lee Marvin. 'PG-13'	*** "Once More, With Feeling!" (1980, Comedy) Yul Brynner. 'NR'	*** "Once More, With Feeling!" (1980, Comedy) Yul Brynner. 'NR'	*** "Once More, With Feeling!" (1980, Comedy) Yul Brynner. 'NR'	Private Screenings: Stanley Donen	Private Screenings: Stanley Donen	** "Arabesque" (1966) 'NR'	** "Arabesque" (1966) 'NR'	** "Arabesque" (1966) 'NR'	** "Arabesque" (1966) 'NR'	
		HBO	** "Must Love Dogs" (2005) Diane Lane. 'PG-13'	** "Make Tsunami" (2005) Dermot Mulroney. 'PG-13'	** "The Family Stone" (2005) Dermot Mulroney. 'PG-13'	** "The Family Stone" (2005) Dermot Mulroney. 'PG-13'	Inside the NFL (N)	Inside the NFL (N)	Boxing's Best of 2006 (N)	Boxing's Best of 2006 (N)	Boxing's Best of 2006 (N)	Boxing's Best of 2006 (N)	
		MAX	(5:40) *** "Lean on Me" (1989) Morgan Freeman. 'PG'	** "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves" (1									

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NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) DIG ★ (1145 220) 455 735 1015
WE ARE MARSHALL (PG) DIG (1230) 400 725 1020
DREAMGIRLS (PG-13) DIG ★ (1200 120) 330 430 640 740 945 1045
THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1125 300) 650 1025
CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1140 225)
515 755 1035
ROCKY BALBOA (PG) DIG (1150 235) 505 745 1015
OC & DA: CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) DIG (135) 720
ERAGON (PG) DIG (1130 215) 500 730 955
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) DIG 420 1000
PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS (PG-13) DIG (1110 120) 155 315 450
630 750 1040
THE HOLIDAY (PG-13) DIG (110) 410 710 1010
APOCALYPTO (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1225) 345 700 1005
BLOOD DIAMOND (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1215) 355 715 1030
CASINO ROYALE (PG-13) DIG 930
HAPPY FEET (PG) DIG (1100)
HAPPY FEET (PG) DIG (1230 300 415 530) 800 915

BALLSTON COMMON STADIUM 12
800-FANDANGO 377#

DREAMGIRLS (PG-13) DIG ★ (1240 110 345 415) 650 720 955 1025
THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1130 315) 700 1035
ROCKY BALBOA (PG) DIG (1200 200 230 435 505) 710 740 945
1015
ERAGON (PG) DIG (155 225 425 455) 725 1000
THE HOLIDAY (PG-13) DIG (1210 315) 630 940
APOCALYPTO (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1235 355) 700 1020
BLOOD DIAMOND (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (100 420) 730 1035
CASINO ROYALE (PG-13) DIG (1245 405) 715 1030
HAPPY FEET (PG) DIG (150 430) 705
BORAT (R) - ID REQ'D DIG 950
DEPARTED (R) - ID REQ'D DIG 655 1030
UNACCOMPANIED MINORS (PG) DIG (1205)
1000 1025

BOWIE STADIUM 14
15200 Major Lansdale Blvd 800-FANDANGO 454#

BLACK CHRISTMAS (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1205 235 510) 755 1015
DREAMGIRLS (PG-13) DIG ★ (1245 130 400 500) 730 810 1030
1100
THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1200 330) 700 1030
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) DIG ★ (1130 230 515) 800 1030
WE ARE MARSHALL (PG) DIG (115 445) 745 1035
ROCKY BALBOA (PG) DIG (1200 245 515) 820 1050
ERAGON (PG) DIG (1215 300 530) 800 1040
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) DIG (1135 1215 205 245 430 505) 700 805
1000 1025
PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS (PG-13) DIG (100 415) 745 810 1035 1100
THE HOLIDAY (PG-13) DIG (1245 350) 710 1010
APOCALYPTO (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1135) 1035
BLOOD DIAMOND (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (240) 715 1030
HAPPY FEET (PG) DIG (1145 220 500)
1000 1025

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7272 Wisconsin Avenue 800-FANDANGO 569#

THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1200 330) 700 1030
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) DIG ★ (1100 140 420 730) 1000
WE ARE MARSHALL (PG) DIG (1200 330) 720 1020
ROCKY BALBOA (PG) DIG (1120 155 445) 745 1025
ERAGON (PG) DIG (1130 210 440) 740 1010
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) DIG (1115 200 430) 710 940
PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS (PG-13) DIG (1215 300) 705 795
BLOOD DIAMOND (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (415) 715 1030
THE HOLIDAY (PG-13) DIG (150) 320 650 1005
APOCALYPTO (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1210) 1015
CASINO ROYALE (PG-13) DIG (350) 700
HAPPY FEET (PG) DIG (1110 145)
1000 1025

ROCKVILLE CENTER STADIUM 13
Rockville Town Center 800-FANDANGO 248#

WE ARE MARSHALL (PG) DIG (130 420) 720 1020
DREAMGIRLS (PG-13) DIG ★ (130 425) 730 1035
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) DIG ★ (1120 1200 150 235 430 510)
710 745 945 1025
THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1200 330) 700 1030
ROCKY BALBOA (PG) DIG (1145 215 445) 730 1010
ERAGON (PG) DIG (1140 210 450) 735 1000
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) DIG (1200 220 440) 705 925
PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS (PG-13) DIG (115 415) 715 955
THE HOLIDAY (PG-13) (100 410) 710 1020
APOCALYPTO (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (110 425) 755
BLOOD DIAMOND (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (205 505) 805
CASINO ROYALE (PG-13) DIG 1000
HAPPY FEET (PG) DIG (1155 230 500) 730
1000 1025

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PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS (PG-13) DIG (1100 1220 150 400 440) 650 740 940 1030
ERAGON (PG) DIG (1150 1230 220 300 450 530) 720 800 950 1025
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) DIG (1115 1200 145 230 420 500) 645 730 920 1000
THE NATIVITY STORY (PG) DIG (1140 250 520) 745 1045
UNACCOMPANIED MINORS (PG) (1120 345 510) 710 840 950 1040
BABEL (PG) - ID REQ'D 1010
1020 1030 1040 1050 1060 1070 1080 1090 1095 1100 1105 1110 1115 1120 1125 1130 1135 1140 1145 1150 1155 1160 1165 1170 1175 1180 1185 1190 1195 1200 1205 1210 1215 1220 1225 1230 1235 1240 1245 1250 1255 1260 1265 1270 1275 1280 1285 1290 1295 1300 1305 1310 1315 1320 1325 1330 1335 1340 1345 1350 1355 1360 1365 1370 1375 1380 1385 1390 1395 1400 1405 1410 1415 1420 1425 1430 1435 1440 1445 1450 1455 1460 1465 1470 1475 1480 1485 1490 1495 1500 1505 1510 1515 1520 1525 1530 1535 1540 1545 1550 1555 1560 1565 1570 1575 1580 1585 1590 1595 1595 1600 1605 1610 1615 1620 1625 1630 1635 1640 1645 1650 1655 1660 1665 1670 1675 1680 1685 1690 1695 1700 1705 1710 1715 1720 1725 1730 1735 1740 1745 1750 1755 1760 1765 1770 1775 1780 1785 1790 1795 1800 1805 1810 1815 1820 1825 1830 1835 1840 1845 1850 1855 1860 1865 1870 1875 1880 1885 1890 1895 1900 1905 1910 1915 1920 1925 1930 1935 1940 1945 1950 1955 1960 1965 1970 1975 1980 1985 1990 1995 1995 2000 2005 2010 2015 2020 2025 2030 2035 2040 2045 2050 2055 2060 2065 2070 2075 2080 2085 2090 2095 2095 2100 2105 2110 2115 2120 2125 2130 2135 2140 2145 2150 2155 2160 2165 2170 2175 2180 2185 2190 2195 2195 2200 2205 2210 2215 2220 2225 2230 2235 2240 2245 2250 2255 2260 2265 2270 2275 2280 2285 2290 2295 2295 2300 2305 2310 2315 2320 2325 2330 2335 2340 2345 2350 2355 2360 2365 2370 2375 2380 2385 2390 2395 2395 2400 2405 2410 2415 2420 2425 2430 2435 2440 2445 2450 2455 2460 2465 2470 2475 2480 2485 2490 2495 2495 2500 2505 2510 2515 2520 2525 2530 2535 2540 2545 2550 2555 2560 2565 2570 2575 2580 2585 2590 2595 2595 2600 2605 2610 2615 2620 2625 2630 2635 2640 2645 2650 2655 2660 2665 2670 2675 2680 2685 2690 2695 2695 2700 2705 2710 2715 2720 2725 2730 2735 2740 2745 2750 2755 2760 2765 2770 2775 2780 2785 2790 2795 2795 2800 2805 2810 2815 2820 2825 2830 2835 2840 2845 2850 2855 2860 2865 2870 2875 2880 2885 2890 2895 2895 2900 2905 2910 2915 2920 2925 2930 2935 2940 2945 2950 2955 2960 2965 2970 2975 2980 2985 2990 2995 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5855 5860 5865 5870 5875 5880 5885 5890 5895 5895 5900 5905 5910 5915 5920 5925 5930 5935 5940 5945 5950 5955 5960 5965 5970 5975 5980 5985 5990 5995 5995 6000 6005 6010 6015 60



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BLACK CHRISTMAS (R) ✓ (10:05 @ \$5), 12:35, 3:15, 5:55, 8:25, 10:50
THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) ✓ (11:25 @ \$5), 12:10, 3:10, 3:50, 7:00, 7:55, 10:35
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) ✓ (11:00, 11:45 @ \$5), 1:45, 2:30, 4:30, 5:15, 7:15, 8:00, 9:55, 10:40
WE ARE MARSHALL (PG) ✓ (10:00 @ \$5), 1:05, 4:25, 7:40, 10:45
ROCKY BALBOA (PG) ✓ (10:50, 11:50 @ \$5), 1:50, 2:50, 4:45, 5:50, 7:30, 8:30, 10:15, 11:00
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) (11:05, 11:40 @ \$5), 1:35, 2:20, 4:10, 4:50, 6:45, 7:35, 9:15, 10:10
ERAGON (PG) (11:30 @ \$5), 12:30, 2:00, 3:00, 4:40, 5:40, 7:25, 8:20, 9:45, 10:45
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG13) (10:15, 11:15 @ \$5), 1:20, 2:10, 4:15, 5:05, 7:10, 8:10, 10:05
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG13) ☐ (11:15 @ \$5), 2:10, 5:05, 8:10
APOCALYPTO (R) 12:45, 3:55, 7:00
BLOOD DIAMOND (R) (10:20 @ \$5), 1:40, 4:55, 8:05
THE HOLIDAY (PG13) 12:20, 3:40, 6:50, 9:55
CASINO ROYALE (PG13) (10:00 @ \$5), 1:10, 4:20
HAPPY FEET (PG) (10:10 @ \$5), 12:50, 3:35, 6:20, 9:05

AMC SELECT

DREAMGIRLS (PG13) ✓ (10:00 @ \$5), 12:15, 1:15, 3:30, 4:30, 6:45, 7:45, 8:00, 11:00
THE HISTORY BOYS (R) ✓ (10:05 @ \$5), 1:00, 4:05, 7:05, 10:25

AMC SPRINGFIELD MALL 10

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BLACK CHRISTMAS (R) (10:45 @ \$4), 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:40
THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) (12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:20
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) (10:00 @ \$5), 12:30, 3:05, 5:40, 8:15, 10:50
WE ARE MARSHALL (PG) (10:30 @ \$4), 1:15, 4:20, 7:15, 10:30
ROCKY BALBOA (PG) (10:50 @ \$4), 1:20, 4:30, 7:30, 10:20
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) (12:05 @ \$4), 1:40, 3:40, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
ERAGON (PG) (10:00 @ \$4), 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:30
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG13) (10:20 @ \$4), 1:00, 4:10, 7:20, 10:10
APOCALYPTO (R) 6:50, 9:55
THE HOLIDAY (PG13) 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:10
HAPPY FEET (PG) (10:40 @ \$4), 1:00, 4:10

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THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) ✓ (12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:30
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) ✓ (10:00 @ \$5), 12:10, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) (10:00 @ \$5), 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
ERAGON (PG) (12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG13) (11:20 @ \$5), 2:00, 4:35, 7:15, 8:55
BLOOD DIAMOND (R) (12:30, 3:40, 6:40, 9:45
THE HOLIDAY (PG13) (10:30 @ \$5), 1:30, 4:30, 7:25, 10:20
THE HOLIDAY (PG13) ☐ (10:30 @ \$5), 1:30, 4:30, 7:25, 10:20

LOEWS GEORGETOWN 14

3111 K Street, N.W.
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THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) ✓ (11:30 @ \$6), 2:05, 6:45, 10:30
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) ✓ (11:00 @ \$6), 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
WE ARE MARSHALL (PG) ✓ (1:15, 4:15, 7:25, 10:25
ROCKY BALBOA (PG) ✓ (12:05, 2:35, 5:05, 7:45, 10:20
ERAGON (PG) (12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:35, 10:10
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG13) (11:35 @ \$6), 2:20, 5:10, 8:00, 10:50
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG13) ☐ (11:35 @ \$6), 2:20, 5:10, 8:00, 10:50
APOCALYPTO (R) (10:35 @ \$6), 1:30, 4:40, 7:50, 10:55
BLOOD DIAMOND (R) (12:45, 4:00, 7:10, 10:15
THE HOLIDAY (PG13) (12:40, 3:45, 6:50, 10:05
CASINO ROYALE (PG13) (10:40 @ \$6), 1:35, 4:50, 8:05, 11:00

AMC SELECT

DREAMGIRLS (PG13) ✓ 1:25, 4:25, 7:30, 10:35
CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER (R) ✓ (11:40 @ \$6), 2:25, 5:15, 7:55, 10:40
NOTES ON A SCANDAL (R) ✓ (10:30 @ \$6), 12:35, 3:00, 5:30, 8:15, 10:45
CHILDREN OF MEN (R) ✓ (11:10 @ \$6), 1:50, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

LOEWS LEXINGTON PARK 6

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NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) (10:00 @ \$4), 12:30, 3:05, 5:45, 8:15, 11:00
WE ARE MARSHALL (PG) (10:15 @ \$4), 1:15, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) (10:10 @ \$4), 12:30, 2:50, 5:20, 7:45, 10:05
ERAGON (PG) (10:30 @ \$4), 1:00, 3:30, 5:55, 8:30, 10:50
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG13) (11:30 @ \$4), 2:15, 5:00, 8:00, 10:45
APOCALYPTO (R) (7:15, 10:15
HAPPY FEET (PG) (10:45 @ \$4), 1:45, 4:45

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DAVID ANSEN, NEWSWEEK

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BAZ BAMIGBOYE, DAILY MAIL

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REX REED, THE NEW YORK OBSERVER

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Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE

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DAVID EDELSTEIN,
NEW YORK MAGAZINE

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RICHARD SCHICKEL,
TIME

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Marriage

Same-sex couples pay big bucks to have glamorous weddings

He's no celebrity, but when Phillip McKee III tied the knot in September, he did it with all the pomp and circumstance of an A-lister: custom-designed gold rings, a \$2,000 kilt and a caviar-and-crepe reception at a posh hotel.

McKee, 34, sank some \$60,000 into his Scottish-themed nuptials, worth it he says for the chance to stand before a minister and be pronounced husband — and husband.

Even as lawmakers across the nation debate legislation banning same-sex marriage, couples are uniting in weddings both miniature and massive, fueling a growing industry peddling everything from pink triangle invitations to same-sex cake toppers.

Vendors say attention to the marriage issue has encouraged more gay couples to recognize their relationships, though in most states the ceremonies are purely sentimental.

"For the longest time, there was so much shame and privacy around it that people didn't really give them-

“We’re showing this is how much we love each other, whether it’s legal or not.”

VINYELLE WHITE, VA. BRIDE

selves permission to have ceremonies like this," said Kathryn Hamm, an Arlington-based wedding con-

sultant who planned McKee's marriage to partner Nopadon Woods. "[Now] the market is growing as the headlines remain out there."

Unlike the multibillion-dollar traditional wedding industry, experts say the gay wedding business is harder to track. Some estimates place its value at up to \$1 billion.

In 2005, gays spent \$7.2 million with vendors found at the Rainbow Wedding Network Web site, according to data collected by

INSIDE

Pair tuxedoes with heels for a glam look | 31



I DO: Madeline Jones and Vinyelle White spent \$4,000 on their wedding ceremony.

LISA BILLINGS/AP

states that have banned gay marriage, such as Georgia, where an annual wedding expo her company hosts draws about 500, mostly black gays and lesbians.

Vinyelle White and Madeline Jones of Richmond spent \$4,000 — a month's worth of their combined income — on their ceremony.

"It may sound really stupid to say, but why not?" said White, who chose an African-themed wedding. "We're showing this is how much we love each other, whether it's legal or not."

McKee and Woods invited 200 guests to their black-tie ceremony, followed by a cocktail hour and reception at the Ritz-Carlton in Tysons Corner. Groomsmen received engraved

the site, which publishes a national magazine and hosts wedding expos. That's up from \$2.1 million in 2002, according to Cindy Sproul, who co-owns the North Carolina firm.

Marriage-minded gays and lesbians are purchasing basics like flowers and limousine rentals. But vendors say couples also are spending on items with a same-sex twist: rainbow bejeweled rings, double-bride thank you cards and "His and

His" towel sets.

"We almost completely parallel what heterosexual couples are doing," Sproul said. "The only difference is there may be two grooms, or two brides."

Sproul estimated gay couples spend about \$20,000 on ceremonies in states offering some form of recognition, like Massachusetts and Vermont. But couples elsewhere also are investing: Sproul said couples average \$15,000 on ceremonies in

pocket watches; a bagpiper, pianist and DJ serenaded guests, who dined on caviar and lobster. The ceremony cost half their annual income.

In Virginia, the men were no more legally bound after the lavish wedding than before.

Still, they considered it a good investment. "For us, the essence of a marriage is our love," McKee said. "Whether the state honors it is the icing on the cake — it's not the cake itself." DIONNE WALKER (AP)

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Microwave Managing

Moguls

How one man made a fortune by creating a frozen-food empire

Jeno Paulucci may not know much, but he does know food.

He sees the world through a microwave oven — through ravioli, chicken marsala and pot roasts ready in moments, and through stomachs run empty by busy schedules.

You may never have heard of him, but he's probably been feeding you and your family for decades.

Even at 88 years old, the frozen food mogul whose current lines include Michelina's and Budget Gourmet is still peddling products all over the world. He recently began shipping to Russia, and is poised soon to hit the Chinese market. Paulucci is also starting a new line of appetizers called Bundinos, which are frozen buns filled with turkey or pizza ingredients.

“Wherever there's a microwave, I believe we should have our product.”

JENO PAULUCCI, MICHELINA'S

“I try to keep ahead of the timing,” Paulucci said. “Wherever there's a microwave, I believe we should have our product.”

It began with Chun King lo mein in the 1940s and mushroomed into pizza and pasta lines. He is perhaps best known for his namesake Jeno's pizza rolls, though he sold that company to General Mills in 1985 for some \$150 million and a big load of regret. “I should've kept the pizza roll. It's something that'll damn near live forever,” he said.

Born three decades before anyone had a home microwave, Paulucci started his Chun King business in 1944 with a \$2,500 loan, and sold it to R.J. Reynolds less than two decades later for \$63 million. He says he has started around 70



entrees, Paulucci hasn't been to the grocery store in a decade. He says he has never touched a computer, and prefers that employees use e-mail only if there's no other option.

He details many of his experiences in a recent book called “Jeno: The Power of the Peddler.”

As a young barker at a food market, Paulucci persuaded customers to buy discolored bananas by calling them “Argentine” and bumping up the price.

Paulucci still lives much the same as he used to. He works in the same nondescript but cozy office, sampling products and hassling vendors who make his life difficult. He starts work at 8 a.m. now, instead of 6 a.m., because he and longtime wife Lois take a little longer to help each other get ready.

He is also now legally blind. Staff members read things to him, and he's got a well-lit office and machine that enlarges print.

He's not ready to retire. He intends to sell Michelina's and start something else, and in the meantime presides over the entry into China. The first shipments will leave in January or February, and the company is still trying to get a few more wholesalers.

“Other than being with my wife, Lois, I've got nothing to do,” he said. “Relaxing makes me nervous.”

TRAVIS REED (AP)

Jeno Paulucci, 88, still works five days a week thinking of his next business model.

companies, some more successful than others.

For all his success, there are a few calls Paulucci would like back. He sold off shares in surgical staple and packing wrap companies because he

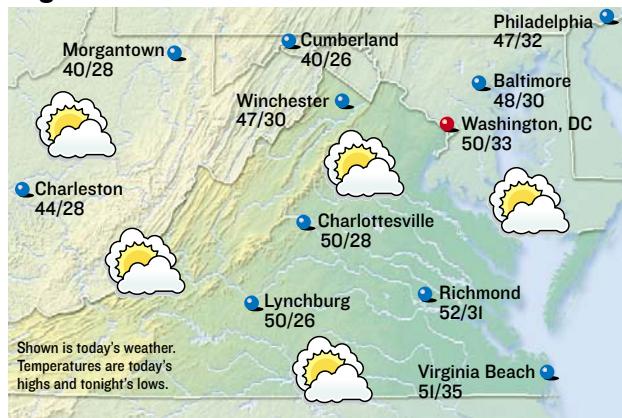
didn't think they'd take off or quibbled with owners. He started several restaurants that failed for various reasons (bad locations, bad managers or his own stubbornness).

Though still designing new

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area

Today	Tonight	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
50°	33°	53° / 36°	50° / 42°	58° / 45°	59° / 40°

Regional Weather



Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Tues.

Temperature

High	54°
Low	45°
Normal high	44°
Normal low	30°
Average humidity	87%

Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m.	0.29"
Month to date	1.50"
Normal month to date	2.55"
Year to date	47.71"
Last year to date	44.03"
Normal year to date	38.85"

For up-to-the-minute weather, see: washingtonpost.com/weather

Regional Forecast

D.C. Metro: Today, partly sunny, breezy. High 50. Wind west-northwest 8-16 mph.

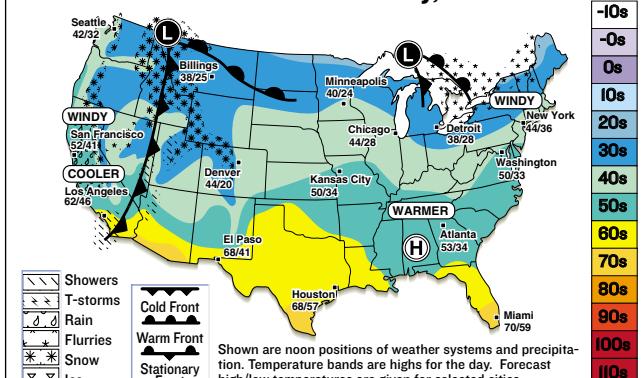
Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 33. Thursday, partly sunny. High 53.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today 7:26 a.m.
Sunset tonight 4:53 p.m.
Moonrise today 11:54 a.m.
Moonset today none

First	Full	Last	New
Dec 27	Jan 3	Jan 11	Jan 18

National Weather for Wednesday, December 27



Styles

LOOK out



BLACK TIE BABY! This enthusiastic mannequin displays tuxedo-inspired duds at the Ann Taylor Loft in Times Square. KATHY WILLENS/AP

Well-Suited

Ladies can get gussied up in a penguin suit, too

Special occasions require special occasion clothes, and if there's ever an evening to pluck the tuxedo from the back of your closet, New Year's Eve is probably it.

That means women, too.

Tuxedos, or at least "tuxedo-inspired" pieces, have been all over the runways and red carpets as black-tie fashion took a 180-degree turn from embellished gilty gown to, well, black ties.

It's a style that sees ebbs and flows in popularity but hasn't really completely fallen out of favor since Yves Saint Laurent introduced Le

Smoking tuxedo in 1966.

Saint Laurent's Le Smoking was an extension of the revolution he'd started a few years earlier by pushing pants for women, says Valerie Steele, director of the Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology in Manhattan.

In the 1970s, it was the Studio 54 glitterati — women such as Bianca Jagger — who would dare wear a tuxedo, observes Avril Graham, executive editor of Harper's Bazaar. But it has become a more acceptable form of cocktail and eveningwear for women all over the country.

"For those attempting this look for the first time, it goes without saying that the obvious, i.e. the pleated shirt and black bow tie, should be avoided at all costs. Adapt this look to suit your body



Strappy shoes (like these from Stuart Weitzman) and bold makeup can feminize a woman's tuxedo outfit. SAMANTHA CRITCHELL (AP)

type. There are great tuxedos out there that cater to all shapes and are very chic," said Graham.

When Tom Ford was charged with reinvigorating YSL in 1999, he used the company's archives as guidance and also reinvigorated the brand's signature tuxedo, giving it an even slimmer, sexier fit.

"I think that the reason there is a timeless and constant appeal of a beautiful woman in a tuxedo or even a man's tailored suit is that the hard clean lines of a tuxedo set off the feminine curves and soft beauty of a woman by standing in stark contrast to them," Ford said, "thus making them more apparent, powerful and striking."

The tuxedo can't change too much or it will lose its strong presence, says Steele of FIT. "It's like a traditional riding habit: You don't change it very much unless you're making a statement. ... The beauty of the tuxedo is it's a classic."

A little tweak is OK, though: FIT has in its collection a very dark blue tuxedo-style dress by YSL that Steele says is stunning.

And Graham says the recent shift to skinny-leg pants gives the tuxedo an instant update. Her favorite versions come from Chanel, Jil Sander, Ralph Lauren and Giorgio Armani. Some trendsetters have also dared to wear Dior Homme's slim tuxedos, which really were intended for fashion-forward men.

More accessible brands also see the value of ever-so-slightly changing the black-tie look to meet modern demands. Viktor & Rolf's collection for Hennes & Mauritz and Ann Taylor Loft both featured tuxedo details in their holiday collections.

The key to pulling off the look is finding the most flattering style for your shape. A curvier woman should choose a wider leg and a strappy platform shoe, Bazaar's Graham advises, but for those who are tall and thin, go for the skinny legs and a high-heel sandal. "This version of a tuxedo can look like a knockout."

But a tuxedo on a woman will never be as fancy as a ballgown. A woman attending a lavish black-tie event probably should opt for something more feminine, Graham says. "It's ironic that 'black-tie event' actually refers only to a black tie for men." SAMANTHA CRITCHELL (AP)

Skin



Not the Bee's Knees

We adore Burt's Bees lip balm and will accept no other. Good thing we'll have lots of money to spend on it, because we're not going near their new Body Butters (\$13, burtsbees.com) again. The Cocoa Butter and Macadamia Nut scent smells like the tropics gone bad, while the formula looks like Crisco and sticks like flypaper. We can't recommend anything that makes us shriek, "EW, EW, EW! GET IT OFF! GET IT OFF!" KRISTEN PAGE-KIRBY (EXPRESS)

Hair



Hold On for a Sale

We guess Ted Gibson's Beautiful Hairspray isn't too bad. It comes out really nicely, with a light mist, rather than a laser beam-like zap of shellac. And it smells really hairspray-y, but, you know, it's hairspray. It's not gonna smell like flowers and chocolate. And it held pretty well — it's light hold, so it took care of frizzies, but it didn't do any heavy lifting. So we guess ... Wait a second. It's THIRTY-TWO DOLLARS (drugstore.com)? For HAIRSPRAY? How come the obviously enclosed genie didn't come out of our bottle? We want our three wishes! K.P.K.

LOOK out Online

from readexpress.com

Metro to Let the Music Play

TRANSIT | If you like music with your Metrorail experience, you'll love this: A one-year pilot program to allow limited performances by musicians and other artists has been approved by the Metro board, The Post's Lena H. Sun reported last week.

The performers would be selected by local arts councils, who would pay them stipends.

Metro says the performances would take place outside, not inside, Metrorail stations — and likely outside major transit hubs such as transfer points. Metro is still considering which stations to select.

How do you feel about Metro's decision to allow performances?

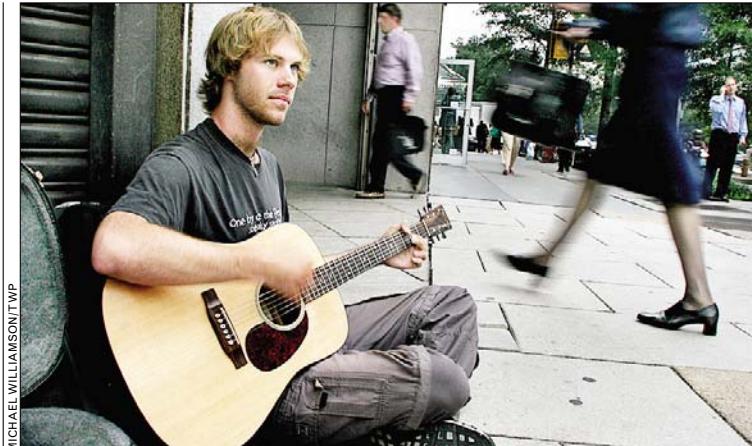
Let us know by leaving a comment online or e-mail us at COMMENTS@READEXPRESS.COM.

ICC Reaction Continues

COMMENTS | Our comment thread about the plan to build the Intercounty Connector in Maryland — a highway that would link I-370 to the I-95/Route 1 corridor — continued to pick up reaction, even after the online poll that spawned it closed.

Commenter Grow Smart argued for greater funding for public transit rather than new highways:

"[T]here are times when we must drive our cars and trips to Home Depot ... are good examples. Wouldn't it be nice if all those cars



Metro's board has approved allowing selected performances outside rail stations.

driven by people who had to drive just because there was no public transit were off the road? ... There [would] be less traffic slowing down those school buses, trucks, people hauling things and others who must drive."

Commenter Extracellular also opposed the highway plan: "There are much better ways to spend \$3 bil-

lion dollars, such as improving local intersections, building the Purple Line. Plus, the ICC will be a green light for more development."

Express asked readers about their thoughts on the ICC in a poll last Thursday. Eighty-three percent of the 310 votes cast came in support of the highway plan, 17 percent against it.

Poll Center

TODAY'S QUESTION

Should ex-Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein be executed?

1. Yes
2. No

FRIDAY'S RESULTS

Is a 2.2 percent raise an acceptable federal pay hike?



As of 5 p.m. Tuesday. Not a scientific poll

GIVE YOUR OPINION ON TODAY'S POLL QUESTION AND GET A STATION-BY-STATION BREAKDOWN OF HOW YOUR FELLOW METRORAIL COMMUTERS VOTED AT READEXPRESS.COM/POLLCENTER.PHP



"I can now retire to my nerdery to watch ST:TNG anytime I want. Oh what glorious adventures await us, Jean-Luc Picard?"

ROCKCREEKRAMBLER.COM THANKS SANTA FOR THE 'STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION' BOX SET RECEIVED FOR CHRISTMAS ALONG WITH AN ELECTRONIC 20 QUESTIONS GAME THAT CAN'T BE STUMPED.

Wearing PJs at Work

"I'm back at the office, and the only person here—kind of wasteful, keeping the whole campus open just for me — but I don't mind. I enjoy working the week between Christmas and New Year's, because it's dead time — no one bothers you, and you can actually get stuff done."

JOURNALS.AOL.COM/JOURNALSEditor/MAGICSMOKE DIDN'T GET BOXING DAY OFF, BUT GOT STUFF DONE. LIKE A BLOG POST.

Merry Chri\$tm\$

"I spent too much on Christmas gifts. My credit card bill is more than I make in a month. Not good. Where will the money come from?"

RECOVERINGOVERACHIEVER.BLOGSPOT.COM IS FEELING THE POST-CHRISTMAS FISCAL PAIN — BUT RECEIVED COOL STUFF, TOO.



Introducing ThemTube

"It is going to be a sort of YouTube ... As long as the viewing is going to be for free, I am in. I stay in hostels for most time, and, when in there, I never bother to watch TV at all. Maybe the Venice Project will get me back to viewing TV."

NICE-IDEAS.BLOGSPOT.COM IS WAITING TO CHECK OUT 'THE VENICE PROJECT' — A MEDIA SPOT FOR COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL — BY THE CREATORS OF KAZAA AND SKYPE.



Vista: Buy It Because It's New!

"Microsoft might be facing some serious trouble. There's been a significant growth in consumer interest in purchasing computer systems, and the impending rollout of Windows Vista is leaving consumers with a lot of unpleasant questions."

PRODANDPONDER.COM HAS A HUNCH THE NEW WINDOWS VISTA BY MICROSOFT COULD BE A BIG HASSLE FOR THE COMPANY, BECAUSE CUSTOMERS AREN'T EVEN SURE WHAT SYSTEM IT WILL RUN ON.

Live Online

Lisa de Moraes

Washington Post TV columnist **LISA DE MORAES** was online Friday at washingtonpost.com to discuss the Rosie O'Donnell/Donald Trump feud and Mandy Patinkin's singing voice.

Looking forward to seeing what you have to say about the ridiculous Rosie/Donald thing. It's so perfect (in a ghastly sort of way).

I'm wondering if NBC, which is partnered with him on "Apprentice," thinks maybe The Donald has gone a tad too far, calling Rosie a fat pig and saying he will send one of his friends round to steal away her partner and that he's going to sue her for her comments — good luck on that one — because he wants to take money out of her fat [heinie] pocket. This is, after all, the same network that airs the over-weight-people empowering series "Biggest Loser." Mixed messages, don't you think? Of course this entire shout-fest is happening just as "The Apprentice" is about to return to the air. Some coincidence, huh?

Is "The View" even that successful of a show? Does anybody actually watch the show, or do they just watch the clips of the controversial parts on YouTube, like me?

Lots of that going on, yes, but the numbers on this show are up since Rosie came on board.

What's your Christmas TV gift? Mine is to have "The Office," "Lost" and "Scrubs" keep up their quality and not jump the shark.

I asked Santa if he could have an episode of "Criminal Minds" in which a pervy perp had to be lulled to sleep, so as to be disarmed, by Mandy Patinkin singing "Sonny Boy." There's nothing in the world quite like Mandy Patinkin singing "Sonny Boy."

The only person whose "Identity" continues to remain a mystery is Penn Gilette's. What the heck is he doing hosting this show? Nomination for better host: Sunglasses-lovin', eye-contact-avoiding, hands-on-hips, overly-intense Horatio from CSI: Miami.

That's inspired, because David Caruso would smack some of these contestants on this show. I'd watch that. And enjoy it.

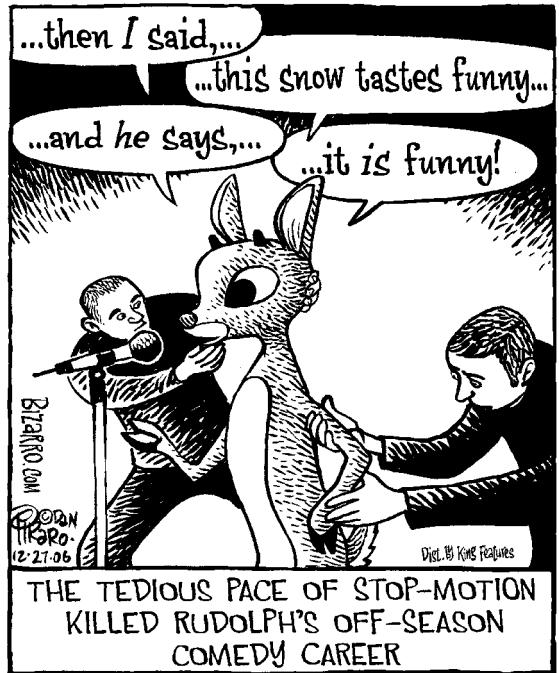
DON'T

RELY ON MOVIE SPECIAL EFFECTS. Americans agree: Watching things explode, implode, collapse, etc. is totally awesome. And while Hollywood can provide great CGI'd destruction, nothing is more satisfying than the real footage at Implosionworld.com.

TODAY ON LIVE ONLINE: In observance of the holidays, there will be no live online discussions this week. They return Jan. 2, 2007 | washingtonpost.com/liveonline

LOOK out

Bizarro | Dan Piraro

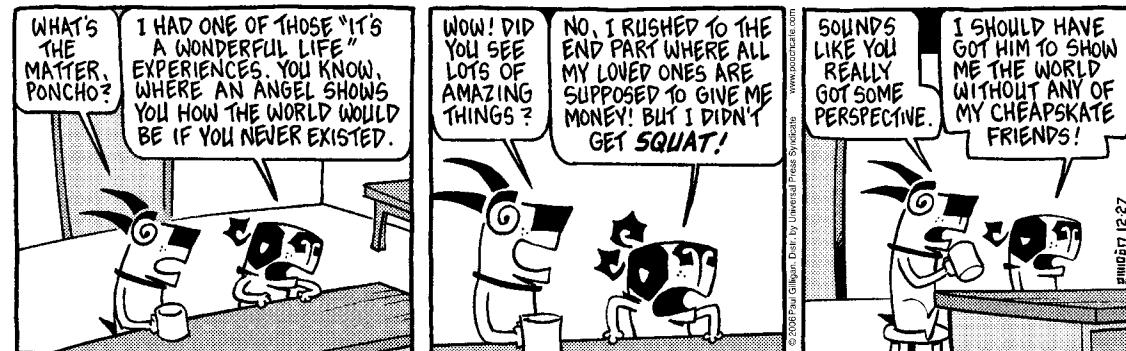


Cornered | Mike Baldwin



"Look, can I call you back? I'm right in the middle of something."

Pooch Cafe | Paul Gilligan



Pearls Before Swine | Stephan Pastis



The Duplex | Glenn McCoy



Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) There may be something you have to do that proves emotionally difficult when all is said and done. Still, you have what it takes to do it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Try to get any of your leftover work done early so you can get to the fun stuff—and leave time for rest and relaxation.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) When it rains it pours—and you must be ready for a little more of what has been coming your way lately, good or bad.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You may be suffering somewhat as a result of a basic misconception. See if you can't get closer to the truth—the short way.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You may encounter an unknown rival who is ready and willing to put you through your paces and make you work for what you want. Are you ready?

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You must be willing to compromise if you wish to

score any points at all. Victory doesn't have to be total at this time.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) A financial issue springs to the surface and demands the kind of attention you've been reluctant to give it. Concentration pays off.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Remain in and around the home. Contentment can truly be found in your own backyard, but only if you look there.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Try not to fluctuate too dramatically when it comes to decisions made in the workplace. Others are relying on you to be firm, steady.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You may encounter a fantastic challenge, and, although advice is available, it will be up to you to decide just how you want to proceed.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You'll enjoy doing something routine in a new and exciting way, which is sure to attract the attention of someone important.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Take care you don't tease someone else so much that your efforts backfire and you wind up with more than egg on your face.

Letters

Losing Weight Takes Effort

IN RESPONSE TO "Obesity Linked to Bacteria" (Dec. 21): Irresponsible headlines like this give individuals more of a reason to deny that they are in control of their weight. Of the people I know who

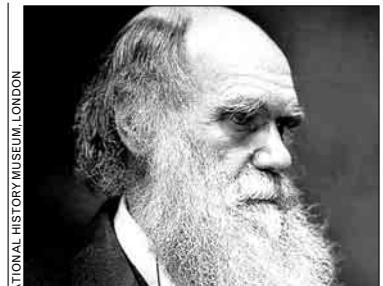
struggle with weight problems, all exhibit some combination of poor food choice and/or lack of exercise. Even differences in metabolism can be offset through proper nutrition and the right exercise regimen. Unfortunately, preventing obesity takes effort and self-control.

—DEREK FREEMAN
Elkridge, Md.

WRITE TO EXPRESS: Include name, hometown and telephone number. Submissions may be edited. E-mail to inbox@readexpress.com or mail to Express Letters, PO Box 17370, Arlington, VA 22216.

Today in History

1822 Naturalist Charles Darwin sets out on a round-the-world voyage aboard the HMS Beagle. (Darwin's discoveries during the almost five-year-long journey helped to form the basis of his theories on natural selection and evolution.)



Naturalist Charles Darwin sailed today in 1822 on his voyage aboard the Beagle.

1932 Radio City Music Hall opens in New York.

1968 Apollo 8 and its three astronauts make a safe, nighttime splashdown in the Pacific.

1979 Soviet forces seize control of Afghanistan. President Hafizullah Amin, who was overthrown

and executed, was replaced by Babrak Karmal.

2001 U.S. officials announce that Taliban and Qaeda prisoners would be held at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Look out

People



Hynie, 36, was already married when she tied the knot with Brown in 2001.

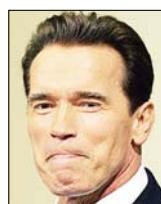
BLUES

Marriage Confusion Keeps Brown's Partner Locked Out

James Brown's lawyer says the late singer and his partner, back-up singer **TOMI RAE HYNIE**, were not legally married and he has barred her from Brown's home. "It's not a reflection on her as an individual," lawyer Buddy Dallas said. (AP)

INJURY

The Terminator: Still Human



Skiing ended in surgery for Gov. **ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER**, who fractured his right femur over the weekend. The broken bone was wired together with cables and screws. (AP)

HOLIDAY CHEER

While You Drank Nog

ANGELINA JOLIE spent Christmas Day with refugees in Costa Rica as part of her work as a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Jolie arrived Monday to visit a group of mostly Colombian refugee children and families. The actress said, "My Christmas message to Colombian refugees is that the world has not totally forgotten them." (AP)



DAMAEASTUETAP/ABC



"If I wear a modest turtleneck, perhaps everyone will forget about the thong."

BEAUTY QUEENS

When You Reign in Sin City, These Things Just Happen

The former Miss Nevada USA, dethroned over raunchy photos posted online, apologized Saturday. **KATIE REES**, who appeared in photos revealing a breast, exposing her thong underwear and kissing other young women at a party in Tampa, said her behavior was an "isolated incident." (AP)



CHRIS PIZZELLO/AP

INFANTS

Ben and Jen's Offspring Can't Upstage Baby Jesus

JENNIFER GARNER and Ben Affleck's 1-year-old daughter, Violet, has been baptized at Christ Church United Methodist in Charleston, W.Va. Pastor Randy Flanagan said members of the congregation weren't star-struck — or didn't show it too much — when the couple showed up on Christmas Eve. (AP)

Criminal Justice

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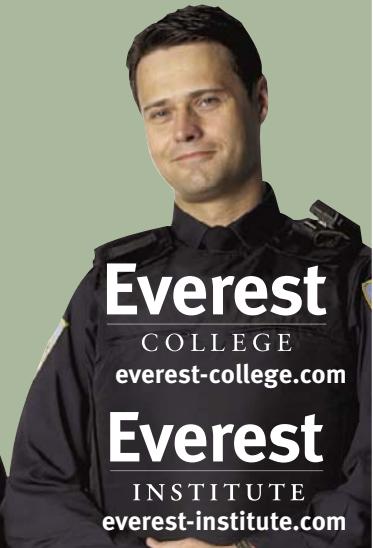
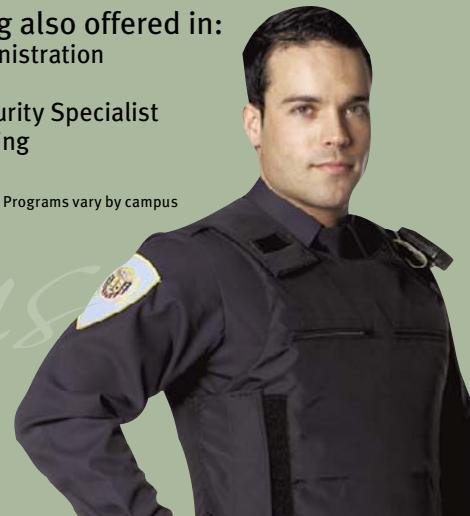
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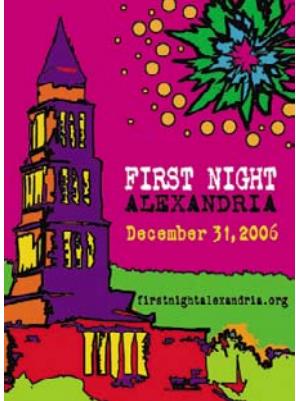
OPENS DOORS

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH OUR CUSTOMERS

Take Metro to First Night Alexandria

Take Metro to the largest, family-focused New Year's Eve celebration in Northern Virginia. First Night Alexandria brings thousands of visitors to the city for a night full of fun. More than 60 bands, musicians and entertainers will perform throughout the evening in Old Town and Del Ray. Special events for children and teens begin around 5 p.m., with model sailboat building and racing, dancing and a teen talent competition on the schedule. Fireworks begin at the stroke of midnight on the steps of the Masonic Temple. Free DASH bus service will be provided from King Street Metrorail station to all First Night venues. For more details, visit www.firstnightalexandria.org.

Metrorail: King Street on the Blue/Yellow lines.
Metrobus: 28B



Go Skating on the Mall

View magnificent works of sculpture while ice skating in the open air at the National Gallery of Art's Sculpture Garden. The rink is open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday. For admission fees and more details, call 202-289-3360 or visit www.nga.gov.

Metrorail: Archives-Navy Mem'l-Penn Quarter on the Green/Yellow Lines and Smithsonian on the Blue/Orange lines.
Metrobus: 13A, 13B, 32, 34, 35, 36, 52, 54, 70, P2, P6 or V8.

Metro Teams Up with ESPN Zone

Show your SmarTrip® card, Metrorail fare card or Metrobus transfer and earn 50 bonus points on your ESPN Zone Game Card beginning Jan. 1, 2007. Points can be used in ESPN Zone's Sports Arena, where sports fanatics can test their skills playing a number of interactive games. Offer valid with purchase of game card valued at \$10 or more. The ESPN Zone also offers an MVP Club with special perks like priority restaurant seating and complimentary points for use in the Sports Arena. Membership in the club is free, but you must register. Find out more details at www.espnzone.com. ESPN Zone is located on the corner of 11th and E streets NW.

Metrorail: Metro Center on the Red Line or Federal Triangle on the Blue/Orange lines.

Metrobus: 32, 34, 35, 36, 54, 66, 68, 80, D6, P6, S2 or S4.



METRO TIP

Metro will stay open late on New Year's Eve to help customers traveling to celebrations around the region. Trains will operate until 2 a.m. Metrobuses will follow regular Sunday schedules. And don't forget: Parking at Metro-operated parking lots is free on weekends and most federal holidays.

Soon you won't have to wait for Green to go.

Beginning December 31, Metro will double service between Mt. Vernon Sq 7th St-Convention Center and Fort Totten stations during non-rush periods (9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. - closing weekdays, all day on weekends and most federal holidays).

With extended Yellow Line service, no transfer to the Green Line will be necessary.

